Sunday, March 13, 2011 | 64 | 14 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 95 | P20 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile News: 0918.2874636 or 4467 | TEXT INQUIRER to 2366

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TSUNAMI FURY: An energy map prepared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration showing the direction of the tsunami in the Pacific Ocean caused by the 8.9-magnitude earthquake which struck Japan on Friday. Tsunami warnings blanketed the entire Pacific, as far away as South America, Canada, Alaska and the entire West Coast. The Philippines and neighboring Asian sites issued alerts. The early warnings doubtless dramatically reduced the number of casualties and the extent of the damage caused by the monster 8.9M+ quake. AP, USGS

'There are no words'

BUNDLE IN PINK: A rescue worker carries a girl from a building in Kamaishi City, Miyagi Prefecture in northeastern Japan Friday. A massive rescue and recovery effort is underway in Saturday. AP, EPA/KYODO

US-led int'l relief effort on, coordinated by UN

TOKYO—"There are so many people who lost their lives," an elderly man told TV reporters before breaking down in tears. "I have no words to say."

The toll of destruction was still not known more than 24 hours after the 8.9-magnitude quake struck, since washed-out roads and silent airports have hindered access through the northeastern coastal areas. An untold number of bodies were believed to be buried in the rubble and debris.

In press time, the official death toll stood at 607, while 18,000 people were missing and 1,128 injured, but these were grim signs that the death toll could rise. One report said four whole trains had disappeared on Friday and still not been located. Local media reports said at least 3,700 people may have been killed.

The international community started to send disaster relief teams on Saturday to Japan, with the United Nations sending a group to help coordinate work.

"We are in the process of deploying nine experts who are among the most experienced we ...

THINK AD

Noy back, grateful tsunami spared PH

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Aquino thanked God that the Philippines was spared destruction by the tsunami triggered by the 8.9-magnitude earthquake in Japan.

The President expressed his gratitude late Friday night upon returning from state visits in Indonesia and Singapore and shortly after the lifting of tsunami alert levels in coastal areas that were threatened while he was in the last leg of his trip.

MAY BALA A-7

FILL IN THE BLANK: Billboard at one of the entrances to Indonesia's Monument National informs motorists and pedestrians of the presence of state guests. The photo of President Aquino, a 2-day state visitor last week, is flanked by those of the Indonesian President and First Lady. The slot at the left would have been filled had Mr. Aquino brought along his own First Lady Ivanaul, a floral design file clip said.

USAID AT 50

Angels with dirty faces teacher's pets

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

EQUALD, Illinois—Stellan children may not exactly be anyone's idea of a teacher's pet.

But this young Muslim woman found her passion teaching these out-of-school youths in Tawi-Tawi the basics of writing, reading and counting, earning her a place in a group of women achievers recently honored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Wearing a head scarf and simple blouse and slacks, Siti Jaina Ahmad received massive at the reception hosted by US Ambassador Harry Thomas last March 8 to kick off the 50th anniversary of USAID in ...

ANGELS A-9

Searching for loved ones via hotlines, Facebook

By Carla P. Gomez, Alec V. Paz, Inquirer Visayas, and DJ Yap in Manila

KALIBO, CITY—Filipinos in Japan are using Facebook to reach base with loved ones in Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental following the massive earthquake on Friday.

Enrique Limjoc Gonzaga, a native of Negros Occidental, posted on his Facebook wall photos of the ground gathered on the streets of Tokyo after the quake.

"Thank God there's Internet connection in the softer shop where we are now," Gonzaga wrote on the social networking site.

"It was so bad I cried up trembling, it was too much to bear," he said. "Please pray for us. Every now and then, the earth shakes. I was in the midst of a meeting when it happened. The trains have stopped. Traffic is everywhere."

Carla Marino-Estella, a na...

DFA hotlines: 834-4648, 834-4580. E-mail: dfasumma.cmc@gmail.com

Hail! Pinoy nurses commit to stay in Libya

By DJ Yap

THOUSANDS of Filipino nurses and other medical personnel who have opted to stay behind in strife-torn Libya are reducing the hazards of the bomb and bullet-raining the image of 10 Filipinos in Arab countries, Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos said Friday.

"That's why our nurses deserve our admiration and also, I guess, it's the reason the Libyan people love Filipinos there," Conejos said in a briefing on his return from a two-week visit to Tunisia and Libya.

HAIL! A-9

Rizal logs on, gets in touch with netizens

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE COUNTRY'S national hero is now on Facebook, very much connected with the social network generation.

More than a hundred years after the hero's birth, some of Jose Rizal's descendants have set up a Facebook page where netizens can monitor the countdown to his 150th birthday.

It's the Rizal clan's way of hopping in ...

RIZAL A-9

SUNDAY LIFESTYLE
• Willie's latest buy: Chito Madrigal's Tagaytay estate • Why our airport procedures don't lead to real security

SIN
• A tour of northern Luzon shows there's more to the country than the world's best beaches

NEWS
• Coastal residents in 19 provinces return home • Heritage trees honored

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

6/27 2 7 / 29 19 / 17 36
6/49 3 0 7 / 8 2 4 / 3 1 8
3 4 9 9 5 6
10 12 13 17 19 42
P19,880,431.20
12 16 17 19 25 54
P41,216,850.00

'Impeachment a test for P-Noy'

By Gil Cabacungan

THE EFFORT to ousted Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez will be a test of sorts for President Aquino.

Two senators yesterday said the President could not afford to fail in his campaign against Gutierrez, considering that he had already made public his position that she should at least be brought to an impeachment trial.

"It would be embarrassing for the President if the Ombudsman were to be acquitted by the Senate, despite his support for her impeachment," said one senator, a known Malacañang supporter.

Another senator told the Inquirer: "The point to pay is too high for an acquittal. It would diminish his political capital."

Both lawmakers spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing that they did not want to "suppress" that they were prejudging the conclusions will be the judges in an impeachment court in the event the impeachment complaint is elevated to the upper chamber.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson noted that Mr. Aquino had failed in his effort to have Sen. Francis Pangilinan, a member of the Liberal Party, installed as Senate President. The President drains the LP.

Failed endorsement

Despite the President's endorsement, Pangilinan failed to get enough votes, while allies installed Senator Juan Ponce Enrile to keep the post of the last minute.

The "political debacle" indicates the President could not rely in the 23-member upper chamber where only four senators are from the LP, according to the source.

"He failed on that one and he cannot afford to fail again this time," the source added.

But the senator was certain that Ms. Aquino would "move" for him to ensure that Gutierrez, an appointee of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, would be impeached.

"He cannot afford not to move politically. He was already outmaneuvered with what happened with Enrile (Pangilinan)," he said.

"Believe me, he will move. He knows how to play the game."

The source defended the President's marching orders to LP congressmen to ensure the impeachment of Gutierrez.

"It's easy to say that he should not have spoken out in public, but he wanted to talk and he wanted to make his position clear," he said.

But remember that Senator, who is now a representative of Pampanga, is also operating in the House, he added.

The senator said Arroyo remained in a position to influence decisions in the House even if she was with the minority bloc.

Golden rule—gold rules

"She only lost her political capital," he said. "But remember the 'golden rule'—he who has the gold rules."

Sen. Ferdinand Escudero on Friday said the personal composition of the Senate and the impeachment rules would tend to favor Gutierrez.

He said the Ombudsman needed only seven senators to vote against her impeachment. In contrast, the prosecution would have to convince 16 senators that Gutierrez had to go.

Pangilinan earlier also said Escudero was "partly correct in that if the vote in the Senate were to happen tomorrow, then it would be very difficult to get a 16-vote conviction."

"But the vote is not going to happen tomorrow, so quite a lot can still happen between now and when the vote is to be made," he said in a statement.

In the House of Representatives, Bohol Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., chair of the committee on justice that found probable cause to impeach Gutierrez, will present a sponsorship speech on the committee report and the articles of impeachment on Tuesday.

Tupas said House rules permitted 36 hours in favor of the impeachment of Gutierrez now numbered more than 150, way above the 96 votes required from the 285-member House.

Among those earning their votes are 117 representatives with pending graft charges before the Ombudsman.

No personal bias

"So what? It does not matter," said Tupas, adding, "I'm confident that they will vote not because of their personal bias but because they represent the will of the people in their districts."

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Neri Colmenares agreed with Tupas that those with pending cases before the Ombudsman, including Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, would vote based on the evidence presented by the committee and the strong public opinion in favor of the impeachment.

Colmenares cited the case of Ifugao Rep. Augusto Syjuco who admitted that he had a pending graft case before the Ombudsman but would nevertheless vote for her impeachment.

"I'm sure the other members with similar cases will look at the evidence which is overwhelming against Gutierrez," Colmenares said.

Manila Rep. Amado Bagatsing, in a privilege speech last week, hinted it enough that he was being talked by a graft investigator and prosecution officer in the Office of the Ombudsman to commend on his verbal denial Feb. 22, 2011, on a graft case filed against him seven years ago.

Bagatsing questioned the timing of the order. With a report from Cynthia Balana

Lawyer denies rift with prosecutors in massacre trial

By Nikko Dizon

LIKE OF the private prosecutors in the Maguindanao massacre trial yesterday said he hoped the revamp of the panel of state prosecutors by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima would not derail the mired-bailed Ampatuans as he denied a rift with the public lawyers.

Lawyer Harry Roque told the business that he had spoken against the Department of Justice order to overhaul the panel despite "the good reasons."

"I will continue to speak when I perceive a possible injustice. While I have some concerns about the important strategy of him, I have no reason to speak out. It is not true, hence that I have differences with the public prosecutors," Roque counsel for some families of the massacre victims, said in a text message.

The business had sought the withdrawal of Roque and another private counsel, Nena Santos, two of the most prominent lawyers of the victims' families, on the decision of De Lima to replace the prosecution panel.

No undue trial delay

Roque said he deferred to De Lima's decision but expressed the hope "the change of the prosecution panel will not have adverse consequences on the prosecution of the case and will not cause undue delay [in the trial]."

He also thanked the former prosecution panel led by assistant state prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon "for their diligence and even competence."

Aside from Fadullon, also replaced were state prosecutors Rosmarie Rabaang, Jean Fredo Morata, Irwin Siberia, Antonio Felipe and Kasan Calvo.

De Lima cited the worsening rift between the private and public prosecutors in the reason for the revamp.

She also expressed her disappointment at the lack of "zeal, aggressiveness and chivalrous" of the former public lawyers assigned to handle the Maguindanao massacre trial, which the described as the "trial of the century" and which the government could not afford to lose.

Gave their best effort

Fadullon and his colleagues said they respected De Lima's decision, but told the business they had given their best effort to the important case.

"We handled the case with all the commitment and dedication we could give it. We devoted our time, making sure every detail was covered in our trial. It is fully clear, we cannot do anything anymore," Fadullon told the business in Filipino.

Justice declined to comment on the reported rift with the state prosecutors.

"What is important is that the new panel and the private prosecutors now have that level of trust with each other to serve the ends of justice," Santos said in a text message.

De Lima said she had consulted with Santos in choosing the new state prosecutors, along with Prosecutor Emmel Glen Arellano.

Santos is the lawyer of some of the victims' families, including Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu, who lost his wife and sisters in the Nov. 23, 2009, massacre.

Tales of women power raise kids' awareness at Inquirer Read-Along

IN CELEBRATION of International Women's Month, Saturday's Inquirer Read-Along focused on stories about the empowerment of women.

The session, held at the Inquirer main office in Makati, was attended by around 50 children and featured the reading titles Philippines Silver, Emerald and Kinder Stories, and Sophia School storytellers from Mayapyap, Baguio.

Classmates read "Tatang Ilocanatata at ang Tattong Hen-gan," a story about a fairy who decided to teach three kids who refuse to care for the environment a lesson. The story was written by the late Rene O. Villanueva and published by Adarna House.

"Being able to share with the children the role of women in our society and of the importance of taking care of the environment is really rewarding," said the 20-year-old beauty queen.

It was the first time Catanduan took part in a read-along session. A member of Bulagan, she admitted being a bit apprehensive about reading a story in Filipino, but native tongue being Ilonggo a. But Catanduan read like a pro, eliciting giggles from the children each her touchy storytelling style.

Advocate for environment

Catanduan, an Associate in Arts student at the University of the Philippines-Open University, said she was no stranger to environmental conservation even before she entered the Miss Earth pageant.

A member of the Asian Friendship Society in Antique, she said she has been active in the campaign for the protection of watersheds since she was 12.

MISS PHILIPPINES-Water 2010 Kristoffer Catanduan approaches at first but quickly get the hang of reading to the children who were entertained by her interpretation of a story about a fairy. (Irene Isle and the environment)

Sophia School teachers Dacon Carrillo, Lilia de la Vega and Grecing de la Vega read Irene G. Villanueva's "Mariner ng Gamitanan" (Legend of the Gamay), a story about a princess obsessed with beauty. Carrillo also read Rhandee Guillen "Chemipot Chemelyn", a story about a food-seeking chameleon family. The stories were published by Lampara Books and Adarna Houses, respectively.

John Bagtasonas, 8, said he liked the story of the origin of gumamos. "I like reading about legends and folklore, and I really like how the Sophia School teachers made the story alive with their presentation," he said.

"The story also teaches a lot about being satisfied with what we have, and not to be envious of other people," he added.

"I like the session because it made me appreciate my mother in the story of Chemelyn," 11-year-old Ronel Bohemian said. "She does a lot for us at home just to make us comfortable."

Nothing goes to waste

"I learned the importance of conservation in the story of the Ilonggo story," 9-year-old Jonnes Jayne Hamon said. "We have to conserve our resources so nothing goes to waste," she added.

"The kids really enjoy listening through interactive sessions like this. With books of the Reading Dummy Foundation, said, "That's why instead of letting them at home playing with other thing them to the read-along session where they can learn many things and deal with other kids."

Newsmen like this are important because they teach many good values to kids while allowing them to maximize of their imagination," said Arlene Cagasan, a teacher at Kapayapay Elementary School who brought students to the session for the first time. "We are sure to be back so the students get into the habit of reading."

The session, hosted by Junior Inquirer's Ruth Mariano, was attended by children from Reading Dummy Foundation and from Happiness Elementary School in Pasig and St. Anthony of Mikati. It was held in cooperation with Miss Earth Foundation and Vibal Publishing House. Arlene Quesada and Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research

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Ministry of Education

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Solon bats for elders' council

BOHOL Rep. Arthur Yap has filed a bill creating a Sanggunian Senior Citizens, or village-extended elders, to provide better representation for some 3.8 million people aged 60 years and older.

"If there is a sanggunang kabataan, shouldn't there be a senior citizen's representation for senior citizens?" said Yap.

His House Bill No. 4220, or the Sanggunang Senior Citizens Act, seeks a special seat for seniors in barangay, municipal and provincial governments.

Yap said the bill, which seeks to amend the Local Government Code of 1991, will create a Sanggunang Senior Citizens, katumpat ng mga Senior Citizens, and municipal city and provincial federations.

Under the bill, a citizen aged at least 60 years is qualified to run for the Sanggunang Senior Citizens whose chair and members shall hold office for a period of three years.

"Senior citizens should have representation in government in order for them to exercise and perform an active role in nation building," Yap added.

The Philippine Barangay System of Government evolved from a council of village elders who combined their wisdom to guide the younger members who led their communities, Yap said.

He said this historical perspective was not unique to the Philippines.

Even the Roman government, upon which most modern republican governments were modeled, started with the creation of a Senate, aymel from the term "Senatus," meaning council of elders, Yap said.

Under the bill, the council would promulgate resolutions needed to carry out the objectives of senior citizens to the barangay. Cynthia Balana

Tips on how to care for your aircon

Summer is coming and chances are the air conditioner in your home is running more hours than the usual. Before hitting the Power ON button, ask yourself when was the last time I had my air conditioner checked?

Ideally, it is best to have your air conditioner checked every 3 months (depending on how often you use it.) Having a well-cleaned unit allows the aircon to cool faster and faster, allowing your unit to function more efficiently. It helps them generate significant energy savings while providing you cooler and cleaner comfort.

Call a qualified technician check and clean your unit. Regular preventive cleaning is essential. This usually requires taking out the unit (be a skilled technician who is trained) and cleaning it with suitable detergents and high pressure water. It is best to leave this step to the professionals.

In between, there are a few simple steps you can do yourself to keep your air conditioner running in tip top shape. The Carrier family lives by these:

DIY Air Conditioner Check

Before taking a peek inside your air conditioner, make sure that the power plug is disconnected. You don't want to get accidentally electrocuted while maintaining your unit. If it doesn't have a power plug, turn off power at the main breaker.

Cleaning the Filters

To keep your filters clean for a longer period of time, it is advised to regularly wipe or vacuum your air conditioner vents.

1. Clean the front grille and check the air filter. It's usually a frame with a plastic mesh that covers the rest of your grille. If it is clogged with dust and accumulated dirt, very carefully remove the filter from the holder ensuring that you do not spill the dust on your floor.

2. If your filter frame is filled with more than one filter, take out the other smaller filters, too. You can clean these later.

3. Gently tap the filter to remove the dust and lint. Then wash the filter in lukewarm (not hot!) water to remove any remaining dust. For best results, gently wash it in soapy water then rinse.

4. Shake off any excess water.

5. Clean the other filters by gently tapping them to remove the dirt or wash them in water (or manufacturer instruction. Be sure NOT to wash paper based filter material in water as this can cause it to disintegrate. Some filters containing plastic require a brief exposure to sunlight to retain its deodorizing and anti-bacterial properties.

6. Re-install the smaller filters into the front frame.

Cleaning the Front Grille

Most air conditioners grilles can be removed for cleaning. They are usually fixed via tiny unit replacement screws. Take out the screws or fasteners and remove the grille.

At most cases, any dirt on the grille can be wiped with a wet cloth. If still too messy, you may wash the removable portion of the grille in running water. Dry the grille thoroughly before re-installing.

Cleaning the Evaporator

The evaporator is a large aluminum & copper panel inside your air conditioner. It is the coil that cools the air. When this is very dirty, some of the dust & dirt may end up getting near the bottom of your evaporator. If this happens, use a soft brush to take out the dust and dirt, taking care not to bend or deform the aluminum fins.

Restoring Your Air Conditioner

1. Return the new clean filters back into the filter holder.
2. Re-install the grille.
3. Plug the unit back in or turn the breakers ON.
4. Turn ON your air conditioner.

You should notice a difference in the cooling performance of your air conditioner after cleaning the filters. Cleaning off the dirt should create noticeable difference in the air flow, giving you cooler and fresher air.

Have a cool & comfortable summer!

For more information and to book a session, contact Consolidated Cargo Air Conditioning Company (CCAC) at 890-8888 or visit CCAC online at www.ccac.com.ph

Chingkoe couple, finance execs not off the hook

QUALITY TOURS
Adam's

By Leila B. Salaverria

DESPITE the handicapped state's dismissal of the plunder case against spouses Faustino and Gloria Dalaglasan, former finance officials and the Chingkoe couple are not yet off the hook.

They still face other criminal cases for graft and estafa before the antigraft court. These cases would not be adversely affected by the dismissal of the plunder charge, according to Prosecution Bureau Director Dindudoh Calayugan.

"The dismissal of the plunder case] would have no effect," Calayugan said when asked if the dismissal would have an impact on the other cases.

"So if even the legal issue that was decided by the Sandiganbayan's first division will become final ... there's never an issue to file another case for [violation of RA No.] 3019 because there were other cases filed contemporaneously," he said.

When the plunder case was filed in 2009 against the accused for their alleged involvement in a P74-million tax credit scam, they were also charged with violations of the antigraft law.

Aside from the Chingkoe couple, owners of Filstar Textile Industrial Corp., those cleared of plunder were former Finance Undersecretary Antonio Bello; the administrator of the Duty-Free Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center; former deputy executive director Elizabeth Jacksan Jr.; tax specialist Rowena Mabasa; Filstar corporate secretary Grace Chingkoe and Filstar representative Catalina Sotto Ramirez.

Calayugan said that although the plunder and graft cases involve almost a similar set of facts, the alleged criminal acts require different elements.

While plunder requires the amassing of P50 million, for instance, the definition of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act requires the public official causing damage to government and giving unwarranted benefits to another person, regardless of the amount.

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TACLOBAN to MANILA
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*effective travel October 20, 2011 until further notice
P1,864*
MANILA to GENERAL SANTOS
ETD 05:15 – ETA 07:00
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ETD 07:20 – ETA 09:15
*effective travel October 20, 2011 until further notice
P1,864*
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

MARCH 13 (Sunday)
Psalter: Week 1
1st Sunday of Lent
10:11-3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.
1st Reading: Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Then Yahweh God formed man out of clay from the soil, and breathed into his nostrils a breath of life and man became a living being. God planted a garden in Eden in the east and there he placed Adam whom he had created. Yahweh God caused to grow from the ground every kind of tree that is pleasing to see and good to eat, also the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil.

Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild creatures that Yahweh God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say: You must not eat from any tree in the garden?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden, but of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden God said: You must not eat, and you must not touch it or you will die.' The serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die. No! God knows that the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.'

The woman saw that the fruit was good to eat, and pleasant to the eyes, and ideal for gaining knowledge. She took its fruit and ate it and gave some to her husband who was with her. He ate it. Then their eyes were opened and both of them knew they were naked; so they stitched leaves of fig fruit together and made themselves loincloths.

Tod Reading: Rom 5:12-19 (or Rom 5:12, 17-19)

Brothers and sisters: Therefore, as sin entered the world through one man and death came through sin, and in this way death spread to all mankind, because all sinned. As long as there was no law there could not speak of disobedience, but sin was already in the world. This is why from Adam to Moses death reigned even over those who did not commit sin—this one was the first Adam, but from another point of view he was to come.

Such was how the free gift was God's gift given by Jesus Christ, and how much more does the grace of God poured out on the gift he granted overflow for all. Now the gift was not from Adam's sin. Again, there is no comparison between the sin and the outcome of the sin. Therefore, while that brought condemnation, one of one crime, whereas the grace of God brings forgiveness in a world of crimes. If death reigned through the disobedience of one man only, how much more will those who receive the grace and the gift of true righteousness through the one person, Jesus Christ.

And so one transgression brought sentence on everyone, so, too, one man's good action brought justification and life to all and so the disobedience of only one made all sinners, in the obedience of one person allowed all to be made just before God.

Gospel: Mt 4:1-11

At that time, the Spirit led Jesus into the desert that he be put to the test by the devil. After spending 40 days and nights without food, Jesus was hungry.

Then the devil came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into bread.' But Jesus answered, 'Scripture says: man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city, set him on the highest wall of the temple, and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for scripture says: God has given orders to his angels about you, they will support you with their hands to keep you from striking your foot against a stone.' Jesus answered, 'Scripture says: you must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Then the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in all their greatness and splendor. And he said, 'All this I will give you, if you kneel and worship me.' Then Jesus answered, 'Be off, Satan! Scripture says: worship the Lord your God and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels came to minister to him.

Reflections

Today

✦ All that because of the fault of one man, but how much more does the grace of God and the gift he granted reather all from the unique man Jesus Christ.

Reflection

✦ The opposite of God's forgiveness is sin. Sin is the work of all our failures. By acknowledge our sin and repent because God's mercy and compassion is with us.

Today

✦ The Lenten season, or we can the real of God's infinite mercy and be strengthened by the tremendous power of His love to become a better person.

After

✦ Rediscover the transformative power of the sacrament of reconciliation and the sacrament of Love. Be open to the grace of God's mercy.

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Survey says 8 provinces are unsafe

NEARLY one out of five Filipinos believes some provinces in northern Luzon and Mindanao are "unsafe" from crime, a survey conducted by the state-owned Philippine Information Agency has revealed.

Of the 1,158 respondents who took part in the nationwide poll in 51 provinces last month, 19 percent identified eight provinces as dangerous.

These considered "unsafe places" are Abra and Kalinga in northern Luzon and Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao in Mindanao.

However, 72 percent of those surveyed thought their own neighborhoods were "safe" while 8 percent rated their communities as "very safe."

The survey said the positive outlook was shared by local officials, religious groups and the youth sector.

Those who believed their communities were "unsafe" or "very unsafe" were from the media, youth, employees and barangay residents.

Apparently alarmed by the survey results, Philippine National Police Director General Nicel Bacalzo yesterday directed regional police units to implement measures to ensure peace and order in the places identified as "unsafe."

Marlon Ramos

INQUIRER Mindanao

THE JOURNEY bag made out of what used to be trash

Plastics turn into bags, give villagers livelihood

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

THESE DAYS, the usually slow-paced barrio life of Taghaobo, a coastal village in the Island Garden City of Samal, is interrupted by young adults gathering plastic bags—the ones that dot the white-sand beach and floating in the waters.

The plastic bags, some of which carry names of popular brands and shopping malls, will soon find their way back to the market as the malls as sports and school bags, apparently a source of livelihood not only for the young adults, many of them out of school, but also for their parents who used to rely on fishing.

"Everyone here is just excited about this potential source of livelihood. The only goal is to show that there is money in the things we thought are already useless—the things that we just ignore and consider trash," said Taghaobo village chair Armando Marin.

Productive youth

She, too, is grateful that the youth in the village is "nowadays doing something productive not only for themselves but also for the environment."

"We know how the environment, which is our source of life, has been destroyed by human negligence. This project will surely benefit those who are lacking in source of livelihood and at the same time, will be very good in our campaign to protect the environment," she said.

Behind the project are Gene Rose Tronco and Joseph Castillo—strangers to each other but jointly and separately in the cause of taking care of the environment and empowering communities.

Owner of a beach side property which is part of a 4.3-kilometer marine protected area, Tronco has been helping the community of Taghaobo find an alternative source of livelihood apart from fishing. Many of the fishermen in the village used to do be engaged in illegal fishing, even using fine mesh nylon nets which also destroy the corals while catching younger and smaller species of fish.

Starting with hammocks

"We started teaching some of them how to make hammocks. We provided the materials and they are marketing their products now. However, we have received reports about practices of illegal fishing using compressor and even cyanide. And the lonely police station in Babak has more than three people are around," she said.

The best thing that Tronco could do, to deter the illegal fishers, was to donate some flashlights, a floodlight and a megaphone to the barangay police.

"But the need to protect the seemingly remote ocean remedies. My daughter Maria Obe chair of the Sangguniang Kabataan thereafter that she wanted to have a resource person to talk about the importance of the seaweeds to the youth so they can find ways to preserve it as well as initiate projects as another source of income," she said.

And so, Joseph Castillo enters the scene.

"I called a friend to ask for a resource person who could talk about marine protection and Joseph was heard him. And that was it. Joseph talked to the fisherfolk about his technology," she said.

He patent

Married to a Cebuwoman, the 27-year old Cebu-based entrepreneur and environmental activist introduced to the residents his technology called Zupter or zero plastic through recycling. The Zupter, as Castillo described it, is a "household recharger" (it is not a trademark) to share the secret of his technology, proof that he wants to see his advocacy multiplied and become popular in the country.

"All you need is a flat iron, plastic bag, a certain kind of paper, creativity and skills, patience, and passion to come up with a good material," Castillo said.

One of the products in a seminar parade that is being used by Castillo's wife. He said he also intends to manufacture yoga mats and shoes.

The production of Zupter is simple: One only needs to iron a plastic bag and an ironed a stretchy plastic material that can be transformed into bags.

Castillo has already commissioned a home-based bag-maker in Davao to create a line for him which he will export to the United States.

Green brand

The line will carry his freshly-registered company's name, Joegreen.

"Many of us are not aware about it, but trillions of plastic bags are being produced every day and we could only imagine how damaging these plastic bags can be to the environment. These plastic bags are persistent memory," he said.

"Apparently, these materials are the same but one cause of these floods that we get to experience every now and then. And even, burning plastic is also one of the biggest contributors to ozone thinning," added Castillo, a college drop out.

Castillo explained the he justtested Zupter from the more popular technology of making bags out of used lanjanita materials.

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Villagers in mining area fear for lives

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

LIANGANGA CITY—Residents of a former small-scale mining village in Sitio, Lininbuanga del Norte, said they were free to leave following the March 6 death of a farmer in the hands of a security guard working for Lianchin mining firm, TVI Resource Development Inc.

But TVI, in a statement, said the guard—Arsie Dimangan—acted in self-defense because the farmer, Rudy Segovia, had attacked him with a machete.

Segovia was part of a group that picketed the road leading to a mine pit in Sitio Canarasan in Tubajon village in a bid to stop TVI activities, which they said were polluting their community.

The protesters alleged that the dust generated by vehicles coming in and out of the TVI mining site has become unbearable.

Self-defense

But Rudy Dimanlalayan, TVI public affairs director, said the guard acted in self-defense.

He also denied that Gregorio was hired by TVI.

But Dimanlalayan admitted that Gregorio works for a cooperative operated by the Subanons, which has a contract with TVI.

"The Siocon Subanon, by virtue of their partnership with TVI Resource Development Philippines Inc. (TVIRD), hosts the company's 500 hectare mineral production sharing agreement area within which TVIRD operates a 30 hectare copper-gold mine," Dimanlalayan said.

He also said that Segovia was not a farmer but part of the group of "holdover small-scale miners, who operated in Canarasan prior to the 2004 start of TVIRD's operations."

Shift of livelihood

Segovia's family and neighbors said he was indeed a former small-scale miner but had shifted to farming when he was not included in the cooperative that the Subanons formed.

Segovia was a Visayan. Until his death, he cultivated bananas, sweet potatoes and coconuts to support his family.

Quoting Tiburay Jaong head of the Gubanon in the area, Dimanlalayan said the shooting started when Segovia and four other holdover small-scale miners tried to block the dump trucks of a TVI contractor.

He said Dimangan approached the group to ask them to remove the road blocks, but Segovia allegedly verbally abused the guard.

"Segovia then drew his bolo and attacked Dimangan, who was forced to step back to avoid the attack. But according to witnesses Segovia kept on charging. Dimangan drew his gun and opened fire to another's leg but missed. So again fired and hit the assailant," he said.

Other motives

Dimanlalayan said the Subanons vowed to cooperate with the police.

He also said the police "are not alone in their investigation. It can also be reported that 'two reasonable minutes' is demanded."

Were before TVIRD started actual mining operations in mid-2004. Ore company had begun negotiations with about 300 families to relocate away from the mine area primarily for safety reasons. They have been offered a dollar-denominated compensation that is many times higher than those prescribed by the presidential ordinance governing real properties," he said.

Ely Salmorin, TVI Canarasan manager, said the "socio-economic" package was meant to provide the families of small-scale miners "a good opportunity to earn a decent and lawful living and have a better more sustainable livelihood."

Leandro Herbilino, chair of the Canarasan tenure cooperative, said TVI and its guards had been harassing them even before Segovia was killed.

PHILIPPINES 490 Years - JUBILEE OF JUBILEES

By: Grace Galindez-Gupana, Kingdom of Jerusalem Foundation, USVD Cmdr. Ambassador of Jerusalem to the World

The BIBLICAL Celebration of Philippines 490 years, JUBILEE OF JUBILEES

On March 16, 2011, the Philippines will celebrate its 490 years as a nation since its discovery by Ferdinand Magellan on March 16, 1521. Biblical prophecies and declarations have been spoken about the Philippines being up as a Nations to be YAHWEH GOD's light in Asia and to the world in this SEASON of JUBILEE.

JUBILEE represents RESTORATION, REDEMPTION, RENEWAL, RELEASE, RECONCILIATION, REST, AND YAHWEH – God's REVENGE for the Philippines and its people. (Biblical context Leviticus 25)

The highlight of the event is the Recognition of the Fifteen (15) past and present Presidents of the Philippines by the Kingdom of Jerusalem Hallabayah Foundation based in the Philippines and Israel. The Body of Christ from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Also included in the event is the awarding of the Jubilee Jerusalem Mantel and Medal of the Lion of Judah to symbolize their significant role in our history.

During the KICK-OFF CELEBRATION, the Largest Philippine Flag will be unfurled on March 16, 2011, 9:00am Wednesday at the Luneta Park Manila, where a brief and meaningful Jubilee program will take place. The flag measures 180 meters x 91 meters and weighs 3.5 tons, and was acknowledged by the Guinness World of Records 2007 as the Second Largest Flag in the world. The unfurling of the national colors will be participated in by schools and universities, and the different sectors of society.

A JERUSALEM HEALING CRUSADE will follow after the Philippine Flag unfurling. Everyone is invited.

On March 25, 2011, an Awarding of the four Hundred Ninety (490) individuals who are Pillars of Society and Leaders of the past and present will receive the Jubilee Jerusalem Mantel and Medal of the Lion of Judah during the "Vision-Casting Prophetic Leadership Symposium" at the Cory C. Aquino - Kalayaan Hall, Club Filipino, San Juan City. Secretariat: Vic or Lora 926-3252 and 926-4304/ 0917-3775068 / 0917-4004785

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Across the NATION

Alert lifted; coastal folk return home

By Inquirer Research

THOUSANDS of residents of coastal villages in at least 19 provinces returned to their homes yesterday, hours after authorities declared that threats of tsunami swallowing their communities were over.

The residents were moved out of their homes following the 8.9-magnitude quake that devastated the northeastern part of Japan and which generated a series of tsunami that reached California and the United States.

Tsunami Alert Level 2 was raised in provinces in the southeastern side of the country facing the Pacific Ocean.

In the provinces in Luzon, at least 34,000 families were affected. Most of them returned to their home after noontime, after declared the tsunami threat over.

RESIDENTS leave the coastal area of Barangay Ayos, Laguja City, evacuate to Mt. Zamboanga. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

Green light

Cedric Daep, head of the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office, said the green light for residents to return home was given to local disaster councils past midnight on Saturday.

Daep quoted local officials as saying seawater high waves generated by the Japan quake were measured at the waters of Legazpi Island in the town of Albay.

The Office of Civil Defense in Bicol, however, said the height of the waves didn't exceed a meter.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda credited media, village officials, local chief executives, soldiers and policemen with the orderly and prompt evacuation of residents.

"Thank God," he said.

Seized from the sea

In coastal villages in Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan, Zambales and Bataan, thousands also started returning home early yesterday.

They spent Friday night in government buildings and public gymnasiums carrying clothes and food. Others sought refuge in hills and other elevated areas.

In Ilocos Norte and Zambales, strained sound coming from the sea and changes in the height of waves led off fears of people living along the coastlines as they fled their homes.

The moment she heard the sea roar on Friday, Recelie de la Cruz, a resident of Barangay Canaynan in Laoag City, started packing clothes and utensils for her three grandchildren and asked her son to drive them to the city hall.

It was almost 7 p.m. when De la Cruz, whose house was a few meters from the coast of Canaynan, drove an armed water moving.

"I thought it was the tsunami starting to roll. She recalled to newsmen inclusion. I immediately packed and pulled my grandchildren," she said.

De la Cruz was among the more than 200 residents in the city's coastal villages of Canaynan and Zaba who escaped to city hall to move out of harm's way.

Facing the Pacific

Policemen went out to villages near the city's coast where residents were asked to move inland.

Mayor Richard Pardon ordered the conversion of the air-conditioned city auditorium as temporary shelter and advised families to spend the night there.

The alert was lifted before midnight but neither but everyone waited until the morning to return home.

Cynthia Ignon, chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration in Ilocos Norte, said only the southernmost town of Pagudpud was vulnerable to tsunami because it faces the Pacific Ocean.

She said most coastal villages in Ilocos Norte face the South China Sea in the western coastline of Luzon.

In Pagudpud, Mayor Matilde Sales re-

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Alert lifted ...

From page A10

dered the relocation of at least 2,000 families living near the shorelines of Pamatan, Nasugbu, Balayan and Tuy. In Pamatan town, more than 1,000 families from the coastal village of Cutcutan sought shelter in evacuation centers.

Religious people

In Batangas, the deeply religious Batangueños resorted to prayers on Friday. Batangas was reported to be the first province in the Philippines to be hit by tsunamis.

Life in the provincial capital, however, was not, and despite the tsunami alert. At least 800 people gathered at Batangas State College for a graduation ceremony on Friday afternoon but local officials and the commencement speaker asked them to be prepared and prayerful nonetheless.

In Lian, Batangas, Mayor Marvin Sandoval Fernando said residents heard the sea rumbling on Friday but it was not too loud to induce panic among residents of the municipality.

Gov. Hermilando Dy III said he received reports that villagers living near the sea in Palanan heard the loud gushing of water at 5 p.m.

Dy said the 3,018 families who fled the coastal towns of Palanan, Bauan, Mataasnakahoy, Devilacan and Limapigue returned home starting 10 p.m. Friday. Some, however, waited for midnight before returning to their homes.

Evacuation in darkness

Bernardo said the evacuation was difficult as they had to trek on the hills in darkness. Most of the residents, she said, feared the dark forest.

"Thanks to God, we were spared and we were safe," she said.

"We endured mosquito bites and the darkness. Many were hungry because they failed to cook and bring food. We were cramped inside tents pitched in high grounds in the town," Bernardo said.

In Cagayan, Senior Supt. Max Aplasca, provincial police director, said more than 3,000 families in the northern coastlines of the province returned to their homes before midnight Friday when the tsunami alert was lifted.

In Aurora, Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo said she lifted the tsunami alert level in her province, which faces the Pacific Ocean, at 11:30 p.m. Friday.

At least 2,000 residents of coastal villages in the eastern capital of Dalay moved to Kinisla Hill, the highest spot on the area and the town area where their ancestors ran for safety during a 1731 tsunami that wiped out the town, she said.

Picnic in Aurora

Another group of more than 2,000 residents spent the night at the provincial sports complex.

"Until not some there to leave yet. I urged them to stay on just to make sure they're safe because they brought along pots, stove for the night. It seemed we had a picnic," Castillo told the Inquirer by telephone.

She said residents started returning home by 5 a.m. Saturday.

Reports from the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said 917 families were evacuated in Baler, Dingalan, Dipaculao, Maria Aurora and San Luis before on Friday afternoon when the tsunami alert was raised.

In Bulan, Sorsogon, images of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan brought by live TV brought back memories of a powerful quake and tsunami in 1976 that destroyed communities around the Sibuan Gulf.

1976 survivor

Dolores Olades, 78, recalled the 1976 quake as she watched the Japan tragedy on TV.

The 1976 quake registered a magnitude of 7.9 and triggered a tsunami that inundated the cities of Dagupan, Gonzaga and seaside areas in Subic Bay, Magsaysay and the Zamboanga peninsula. An estimated 5,000 people were killed.

"Gyan, call Inez's, the first I felt then came back," said Olades. She said one is helpless in moments. All one can do is pray, she added.

Olades recalled seeing in 1976 under a bright moon how shanties and boats were carried by water from the tsunami. "I rolled on all the saints," she said.

Olades also recalled seeing logs dumped on the shore by the waves. The first thing she heard then, she said, was a rumbling sound followed minutes after by water rushing toward her and the shouts of her neighbors, "Tidal wave, run, run!"

"So when I saw the tsunami (in Japan) on TV and the report that it might reach the Philippines, I was so scared that my blood pressure shot up," she said.

In Dagupan City, at least 10,000 residents retreated home on Saturday.

The tsunami alert was lifted past 11 p.m. on Friday but coastal villagers decided to survey home only Saturday morning. After deputies, Inspector Southern Luzon Cristina Ortañez, Inspector Southern Luzon Cristina Ortañez, Filomar Vargas Jr. and Juliet Calubaña, Inspector Northern Luzon, Tourist Grupo, Inspector Central Luzon, Edwin Fernandez, Orlando Bruno and Ildefonso Aguirre, Inspector Mindanao, Marlon Barrios in Manila, and Inspector Wilfredo

Printed and distributed by Philippine Daily Inquirer

Village trying to shed image as drug haven

'I might be a user before but I will not condone illegal activity ...'

By Joel Locsin
Inquirer Visayas

MAASIN CITY—Barangay Mambaan is a fishing village here known for a lot of things.

Tricycle fare to the Our Lady of the Assumption Shrine, which has an imposing 32-meter-tall statue of the Blessed Virgin that can be seen from the sea, is P12.

But the village officials have decided to add shame to its celebrated list.

The barangay council of Mambaan, led by its chair Rubert Ouano, held a dialogue with 32 parents of known drug dependents in the village.

Ouano, who admitted being a former drug user, urged parents to help their children whose lives were slowly being destroyed by drugs.

"I might be a [drug] user before but I will not condone illegal activity especially illegal drugs. Tell your children that I don't condone drug activities in our barangay," he told the parents during a recess meeting at the barangay hall.

Ouano, 32, admitted that he knew how his parents suffered because of his drug problem. He also had to overcome the stigma of being a drug dependent.

One of the parents told the village officials that some people were looking for ill, so he would like to ask them to do their best to help their children.

PO2 Mahardin Dyam, of the Maasin police Intelligence section, urged the parents to talk to their children and make them understand the dangers of using drugs.

He also praised the parents for attending the dialogue since only a few would accept that their children were drug users.

Capt. Hector Braga, Maasin police chief, lauded the village officials for taking the initiative in addressing the problem of illegal drug use in the barangay.

Upon the Mambaan council forming the drug-problem-free body, 7 boys other barangays with similar problems will follow," Braga said.

If the dialogue with the parents would succeed in the desired results, the next step would be to talk to the drug users themselves and let them sign a commitment that they would stop using drugs.

Barangay officials did not discount the possibility of conducting a raid to flush out and arrest the village's 20 suspects offering a drug haven.

HOMETOWN Snapshot

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Pagasa seeks help of people to stop theft of instruments

CITY OF SAN FERNAN... — While more and more typhoons registered this year, concentration in Central and southern Luzon should help protect the supposedly flood-fast-moving and morning-prone PHILIPPINES in the wake of the Pampanga and Agno rivers, whose huge floods had caused millions for 2009.

Dr. Nanie Hapisarawa, chief of the Agrometeorology Applied Division of Pagasa (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration) made the appeal on the heels of floods in four of 120 fully automatic rainfall and water-level gauging stations throughout January.

Forecasting and to protect equipment from lightning were stolen from three upland stations of the Agno River Basin (PAGASA) (ARBFFWC) Investment Corridors and Greenbelt Initiatives.

President Aquino is on to increase the stations in Bataan, Pampanga, on March 24, Bayanihan and in Thursday's briefing to empower treating some provinces hosted by Asian's Official Development Aid (ODA).

Residents in the first with 2.0 meter of clean water from the Mayapyap station at the Nueva Ecija side of the Pampanga River Basin (PAGASA) (ARBFFWC) flood with reasons the stations are submerged in the river and transmit data through a telemetry system.

While the thefts did not jeopardize the entire (PAGASA) hydrological network, they have set back the agency's efforts to improve its flood forecasting and warning system, Hapisarawa said.

He said the thefts happened from time to time but damage to the equipment given from August to the end.

The thefts, Hapisarawa said, showed the need to involve more the communities in helping secure these vital services for the facilities.

"We were reminded that there is... citizen happened," he said, adding that Pagasa solicited the cities at the expense of the Philippine government.

Built in 1972 on a $240,000 grant from Japan's ODA, the (PAGASA) is the oldest of the kind in the Philippines and in Asia, Hapisarawa said. The Agno, Bicol and Cagayan (PAGASA) began operations in 1982.

A series of state-of-the-art equipment were flood into the (PAGASA) in 2009 on a P400-million grant and later the (PAGASA) on a P215-million grant, both from Japan.

Japan has poured $20,000 billion in ODA loans, grants and technical assistance from 1967 to 2008, according to Hiroshi Ishi Hamakawa, second secretary of the economic section of the Embassy of Japan.

Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the transfer of the (PAGASA) center from Quezon City to the City of San Fernando. The center has modern radar, climate and lower orbit phone signal interference.

Engineers said Pagasa has signed agreements with local cities in creating the new Tropical Cyclone Impact Outlook.

PARTS of this river system being used by Pagasa in Bayambang, Pangasinan, were found stolen last Jan. 11. (PHILIPPINE)

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Manila

EN BANC

G.R. No. 176951; G.R. No. 177499; G.R. No. 178056

LEAGUE OF CITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES (LCP), et al., Petitioners,

- versus -

COMMISSION ON ELECTION; MUNICIPALITY OF BUHAS, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, et al., Respondents.

Promulgated: February 15, 2011

x - - -

THE SIXTEEN CITIES

namely the City of **Bayba**y, **Leyte**; City of **Bogo, Cebu**; City of **Cathalogan, Samar**; City of **Tandag, Surigao del Sur**; City of **Lamitan, Basilan**; City of **Borongan, Eastern Samar**; City of **Tayabas, Quezon**; City of **Tabuk, Kalinga**; City of **Bayugan, Agusan del Sur**; City of **Batac, Ilocos Norte**; City of **Mati, Davao Oriental**; City of **Guihulngan, Negros Oriental**; City of **Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte**; City of **El Salvador, Misamis Oriental**; City of **Carcar, Cebu** and City of **Naga, Cebu**

INQUIRER

OPINION

Reversal of trust

EDITORIAL

IT IS the worst thing that a public servant can do. In government, there may be no greater sin than for one to take from the people what is theirs and allocate it to himself. It is not only a betrayal of public trust, it is perversion of the craziest kind—reversing the flow of funds from those who need it into the hands of those who want it.

Of all the branches and agencies of the Philippine government, the entity that by law handles the funds set aside to guarantee the la-mendy underpaid and overworked Philippine government workers with social security benefits, now or at some future time, is the Government Service Insurance System.

But now comes the Commission on Audit. With an open and very expensive can of worms, it reveals that in 2009 the GSIS board of directors first allotted a huge amount of money for their compensation package and then declared the ordinance package confidential, effectively obscuring their greed from public view.

The numbers alone inspire awe and righteous anger. The directors' compensation package ran up to P5.1 million each, or a total of P968 million for the entire board. In addition, each director got a 13th- and 15th-month pay, a midyear financial assistance, a productivity and incentive bonus of four months and a share from the Provident Fund every month that, all in all, added up to P2.6 million.

For representation and transportation, they allotted themselves P120,000 and P40,000, respectively fixed on the number of meetings, according to the COA, each director in effect paid themselves P80,000 for every board meeting—scandalously an atrocious "incentive" to get them to attend the GSIS board meetings.

And there was much more. The GSIS not only paid their employees far more than other comparable agencies, it spent P135.471 million on ads and PR, and P25 million on extraordinary medicine for their employees.

How did the directors manage to do all these? They merely reinterpreted the GSIS charter to invest the board with the power to increase, give and approve the grant of allowances and bonuses for themselves "without regard to existing laws, rules and regulations," to quote from the COA's report.

This is the best example of what happens when government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) get to write for themselves a check. In the case of the GSIS directors, they allocated to themselves bonuses, perks and compensations, salaries and fringe benefits gone mad. The more you look, the worse it gets.

Why? Because the GSIS then was never known to be the most streamlined of GOCCs and GFIs. Complaints were aplenty and commonplace that pensions were dismally late in reaching government retirees, and retirement benefits were woefully misdelineated. Also, employees' monthly contributions could not be recorded because the computer system was undergoing richer some technical problems or some upgrading.

This was not just anyone's money the GSIS was moaning about with. This was the true people's money, that painful portion deducted from each government employee's meager salary every month, money supposed to be administered for retirement and other such benefits but declared instead to line the pockets of GSIS bigwigs. This may not be the latest of such misadventures, but it was perhaps the most insidious.

It is then fortunate that the new Aquino administration, right from the start, has aligned itself against such massive misfeasance. It may have come late to prevent the GSIS mess, but it has taken palpable steps to prevent such transgression from happening again. Last year, it began the process by issuing Executive Order 7, which insists what compensation can be received by board members of GOCCs and GFIs, recognizing "a need to strengthen the supervision over the compensation levels of GOCCs and GFIs, in order to control the grant of excessive salaries, allowances, incentives and other benefits." Then in February, Mr. Aquino issued EO 24 which clamped down on additional forms of compensation awarded to policy board members, such as retainer fees and stock plans. "This EO will serve as a stop-gap measure to rein in excessive pay for GOCC board of directors and trustees until a law is passed mandating such," according to Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr.

All these are but the first steps in safeguarding the people's money and ensuring it goes back to them, and in transforming the powerful government financial agencies into what they should have been all along: the guardian of the people's hard-earned money.

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High school reunions

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

LIKE MOST people now in their mid-60s, I recently joined my high school classmates in a series of reunions to mark the golden anniversary of our high school graduation. There is something extraordinary about meeting one's classmates after 50 years. We wonder how they have changed and to what ways they have remained the same. We wonder too what vivid memories of our youth they have kept, if any. Compared to 25th anniversary reunions, golden anniversaries are warmer and kinder. There is genuine interest in the other person and a readiness to share in his or her achievements, or commiserate in his or her misfortunes, as we struggle to make sense of shared memories.

It is said that only our bones show no change in a person's face—the eyes. They may be the same from birth. They may be rimmed with incredible sadness, or betray deep longing, or be half-buried in wrinkled skin, but they never lose their aliveness. It is the eyes that we remember. We peer into them with the unpretentiousness of youth, hoping to recover familiar traces of a person we once knew. And almost all the time, we are rewarded by the grace of recognition.

A long, lost classmate now based in the States found my long-lost e-mail address and sent me two scanned class photos. ...our where we were in third year high school, taken in 1966, and another one in our senior year, taken in 1967. I had not seen those pictures in a very long time. And so I spent one whole morning viewing them, focusing on one face at a time, zeroing in on the eyes, guessing which name belongs to which face, wondering what memories they hold. It is the one thing I like about the iPad. With a single simple touch of the screen you can magnify any part of a photograph, and create a new look that is entirely its own.

At one of our gatherings, I asked each one of my classmates to quickly choose for me one that I would take a side glance of them. I then upload ed these previous images into my iPad. After how I looked into their eyes, I was gripped by the strangest sensation. I felt I was rekindling into the primeval soul of people I had known in my childhood but whose life experiences in the last 50 years I was totally unaware of. Their eyes physically had not changed, but they appeared to have complete total visited strokes to tell—some sad, others cheerful, some tragic, others comforting. The eyes seemed to say, "If only I could tell you my life."

Indeed the reunion gave me a chance to listen to some of those stories, and always I felt privileged and humbled as a human being to be able to hear the unfolding up of a life. There are moments now in years of perseverance in a time of scarcity and limited opportunities. Many of my classmates took the risky chance to make a different life abroad by joining the OFW foray after a few years to pursue their dream of a college or technical education. They married and had children. Some of their children would reap the hard-won benefits of their arduous struggles. Their belief in the transforming power of education is almost mythical. They planned their lives so their children would have a better chance in life.

I had a classmate who was promoted in rank. She could easily have become an executive in a financial house in Manila. But, she remained in the province to help support her parents and younger siblings. She studied in for a teacher's position in the city and still resides on the side. She took out a loan to take another course in accounting after graduation, even as she continued to teach. She gave up many chances to travel to the big city because she could not bear the thought of leaving her parents and her brothers and sisters who were still in school. While the body of grateful students she came to attend, she rebuilt her parents' house. It was only then that she felt entitled to marry her boyfriend, who himself had struggled against all odds to become a successful lawyer. Now retired from law life long vocation as a public school teacher, she proudly recalled the five children they raised, all IP graduates.

Perhaps more to the eyes, it is a person's more than decent things much. Listening intently to my classmates share their love and their pains, their achievements and their failures, I realized I would not mistake for anyone else's was an incredible experience. It was like eavesdropping on adolescents having their imaginations wake as they engage in animated conversations about the life they will have. They will do it better next time, it's the new level, and of dreams half pursued, now realized in their children. But there is one difference, and that is the wisdom that comes with years lived well.

As we final morning, my classmate and I left alone to prayer to remember those who did not live long. As their names were read, I noticed we had called their youthful faces from the days of June and prepared them on a screen as we could hear them speak through their eyes. There is no way of appreciating the depth of mother's caring to bring up to these still parents. We promised to meet again every other year, even as everyone knows that for many of us this could be the last.

There's something about the high school youthful days and you united into our psyches. I guess it has something to do with the fact that at that age, we are just beginning to be self-conscious, to be reflective, and to form impressions of people. And so when we meet as reunions half a century later, we marvel at how time has changed all of us. But, in the same time, we could be sure of what it has failed to erode—the eyes, the voices, the laughter and the affection.

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When tempted. . .

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a lawyer who asked the accused: "Is it true that you accepted a bribe of P1 million?"

When no answer came, the judge spoke, "Witness must answer the question."

In which the accused raised his head and said, "Sorry, Judge. I thought the question was not to be addressed to you!"

• • •

In today's Gospel (Mk. 1: 1-11), we read that Jesus was tempted. How much more so! Jesus' experience the turn of the evil one. Many of us fall, weak as we are. We, many of us, like Jesus, endure and are victorious, by God's grace, constantly as we are.

• • •

Last week, I consented a husband who, for the first time in his 30 years of marriage, fell into a one night stand with someone in one of his provincial trips. He admitted that to his wife, and she was devastated. It was so hard for her to accept, and it was so painful for him to be on the road of sorrow, guilt and regret. He can say whatever we want, and we may get sorry with it, but the most important question is was it all worth it?

• • •

"I love someone on the line, forever on the hips." We all have heard this caveat when it comes to food. But the truth of the matter is, this applies not only to temptations of food, but to temptations of the flesh, money and power as well. It all boils down to choosing fleeting worldly pleasures now over lasting values and eternal life.

• • •

Someone once said that if we seek the subtlest of sin, 30 Commandments, we would see for according to take as many salutes! If we aimed at the road of righteousness, we would love contentment, equanimity and peace! Dirty God and you will have peace. Sinless God and you will have regrets and tears and loss of souls.

• • •

"When you sum, you reap." Let us keep this in mind whenever we have temptations of any sort. Go back to the cross, go back to the last of names. Such is the love of God. Let us not think that we are not worthy. We reap what we sow. Goodness pays. Crime... sin—does not pay!

• • •

Love is the time to say "Get sorry, Jesus!" As we look in our hearts, in humility and in honesty, let us acknowledge our weaknesses and ask the Lord to help us remember whatever is no more in our hearts, in our character and how to reconcile. It is the time to say "Yes" to sin, and to say "yes" to righteousness once again.

• • •

So love that President Aquino himself, in his commencement speech last March 5, 2017, at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), exhorted the graduates to resist temptation. "I hope you can say 'no' when somebody dangles a truckload of money in front of you... because not here to get rich."

• • •

Whenever we face temptation, the devil appears as rich all his might, but take note that the angels also minister to us. It is up to us if we are helpless and at the mercy of the evil one. There is available help and resource to divine aid. This is, if we pray and hold on to God's grace. So, when tempted, just pray. And just flee!

• • •

Lent should not be seen as the time for gloom and gloom. Rather, it should be seen as the time for rejoicing, even, celebration. It should be a liberating season when we are set free from our vices and selfish orientations. It should also be a time for freedom as we discover of our attachments to the material world, and focus on what is really basic and important in this life. Finally, freed from our sins this Lenten season, may we be more generous in the needs of others.

• • •

"Keep it light and bright." This is the battle cry for Lent, and for life itself. Do good, avoid evil, follow what is right, and you will be all right! Easier said than done, yes, but the alternative is to live a life that is full of burdens, worries and cares.

• • •

Today is Scripture Sunday. We are all migrants in this world. This earth is not our permanent home. We are all pilgrims. We are all just passing by. Let us remember and pray in a special way today for those who live in foreign lands and are subjected to all sorts of insecurities, discrimination, deprivation and even persecution.

• • •

Let us acknowledge and support our OFWs during these trying times especially those working in the Middle East. As we pray for their safety and well-being, let us go to our government to really vow their vast wages, understanding, compassion and love, and make it to our regard for them as our modern-day heroes.

• • •

Inviting you to join me for a pilgrimage to Montserrat, Lourdes, Assisi, St. Padre Pio Shrine and Rome (7th May 16-29). For details, please call 525-8581, 7217457.

• • •

Think about this: "We are all living on borrowed time, and God can give the life He lent us any time."

• • •

Deal with temptations as you would deal with a command: Pray and flee!

• • •

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, when tempted, help me to pray, and to just flee. Amen!

World-class Filipino

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Pangalangan

THE RECENT 25th anniversary celebration of our People Power Revolution reminded us of the world's acclamation of former President Cory Aquino as the "icon of democracy." Our "yellow revolution" in 1986 contributed to the domino-like thing in 1989 of the once-monolithic Soviet Union and the "colored" birth of new sovereign states in Ukraine, Georgia, Lithuania and several former European nations. Echoes of that political movement are now heard in the Middle East, where democratic revolutions are toppling entrenched dictatorships.

New paradigm of free expression. But contrary to orthodoxy on this saga, I salute our other great "bahaghari" who have made us proud to be Filipinos. There is Manny Pacquiao, Flames Ilarde's pound-for-pound king of the boxing ring. There is Lea Salonga who has conquered the performing arts in New York, London and other elite stages of the world. There is Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala who, in 2007, was the first Filipino conferred the highest award, Officier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur. There is Efren Peñaflorida Jr. who was the are the "CNN Hero of 2009," having 9,000 members from near 100 countries.

And just a few days ago, another world-class Filipino, Mahar Mangahas, president of the Social Weather Stations (SWS) and luminary statistician, was chosen—after a world-wide search—to receive the one "Natural Medal" of the University of Chicago Alumni Association. Its was cited for his consistent defense of the principle and development of a new science of public opinion polling.

Like the Nobel Prize, this award is given after a thorough international search among the intellectuals of the continents. To appreciate its value, let me say that freedom of expression, unambiguously understood, includes several other rights like the freedoms of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of religion, of association and of access to public information. It even encompasses the freedom to be silent and the right not to listen.

Mounting freedom. In the distant past, tyrannously and the national census could not be known till after several weeks. On the other hand, the exit poll wastes used the randomized statistical science instantly.

Supreme Court's rules. Approved, SWS and MR-CBS brought suit in the Supreme Court. After hearing the parties, the Court (in MR-CBS v. Commission on Elections, Jan. 28, 2004) ruled that exit polls are an indispensable part of free expression and that are entitled to constitutional protection. Being a new category of free speech, opinion polling is a "preferred" right according on a higher level than substantive economic freedoms or other liberties. I had the honor of writing that well-binding decision.

A subsequent case (SWS v. Comelec, Mar 5, 2001) reversed another order of the Comelec that required the dissemination of poll surveys conducted before the election be disseminated from any polls which are taken immediately after the voters cast their ballots).

Prior to these two decisions, the rule of thumb was simple: Opinion polling was not freely exercised. For instance, in Singapore, it was banned and in Mexico, it was a criminal offense to release—within eight days before an election—a survey predicting a winner.

Singapore brought its legal miseries to the Philippines in the Asian Americans for Public Opinion Research (Filipro) that in turn influenced them to the whole planet. Their advocacy assured in the international acceptance of opinion polling as a new paradigm of free expression.

Right to be silent. Under this new paradigm, one must be prohibited from writing to or flag a person or vote, how can any freedom-loving nation ban the dissemination, survey and publication of the others' opinions of an entire population?

Within his knowledge, Mangahas was nominated for the award by singer-president Tom Petit, his Chicago buddy-dean Wm. Inbinder-Harris, and me.

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Coming home

THE PLOT thing that greeted me was a flame of hot air. I breathed in deeply trying to take in as much of the warmth as possible. Hmm...I thought blissfully to myself I have only left 37 Twenty hours earlier, I was shivering in the freezing rain and snowy landscape of wintry Toronto in Washington State and my 11-hour flight was many years. I was back in Manila for a short session with my group mates from the University of the Philippines, English Major Class '88.

HIGH BLOOD

Bobbie Tiu

My class organized me to set up a session with my college friends Lord a precious, warm manner with my high school class-mates—rather smaller than I would much needed re- union with my home country. Seeing Manila again, my close and personal after many years of absence was extremely invigorating and exciting. Discussing and renewing, but also inspiring and uplifting. So much had changed in the intervening years since I left, some good, some really bad, and a few were downright criminal.

Certainly, I do not know what this new mood is brewing in me, but it was certainly not during the time I lived in Manila. The present-day Metro Manila skyline is dotted with exotic high rises, and in the short time my friends and I were here, we were able to enjoy the confluence of these condo units that had all the amenities one could possibly bring. It seemed that each person I met during my trip either owned a condo or was related to/knew someone who did.

I dare speculate that condos are the new status symbol in the Philippines. A condo can be the perfect summer vacation home for holidaymakers, a handy bachelor's pad, a rental property, a convenient place to live for the rich, and a good place to lay the the smart investor. Wherever the reason, I found the boom in condos initially perplexing, as I have always believed the Filipino people to be industrious and hard-working but economically poor. "Who has money to buy all these units?" I mused.

Shopping malls: The question of who has money to spend takes me right to my daughters' favorite past-time—shopping. There were only three department stores worth mentioning when I left: Rustan's for the more exclusive shoppers with themes to "suits, Shoemart and Robinson's for everyone-who-likes-to-shop-at-a-department-store-but-doesn't-mind-the-eye of department-store-type-shopping-complexes and malls: Greenhills, Cubao, Quiapo, Divisoria, Makati, Greenbelt, Shangri-La, Cocomlec, The Podium, Landmark. There were 100 malls (Shoemart's projects) everywhere we went, including the nearby towns of Laguna, Batangas and Cavite. I was told that there are 200 malls. I said there was the biggest of them all (there's bigger in the world and that'd be Asia), the SM Mall of Asia. "MOA," as the natives call it, combines the finest in Filipino shopping and entertainment and boasts prestige daily foot traffic of 200,000, two-hundred thousand!!!

Again, the question: "Who has money to spend in all these malls?"

OPWL The answer, once I got it, was pretty obvious: OPWL (overseas Filipino workers) and their hard-earned dollars are changing not only the landscape of our home economy, but also the mindset of the Filipino people—the hopes and dreams of our children. Many of our countrymen and us mental jobs abroad so their families in the Philippines can build new and better homes and their children can go to good schools that in the past, only the rich could afford. OPWs come home with bonds for kids, money to start business or buy SUVs and vacations and trips and condos now and then. They throng the malls and restaurants and movie theaters—God bless them—but also, they are chip out entire town areas.

Traffic. This one is under the category of "really bad." My friends and I descended to our favorite spot: that it is no longer possible to spend the day hopping from place to place in Manila and Makati as we used to do in our youth. Traffic has gotten so bad that we have to factor in hours of "missing time spent on the road waiting for the traffic to unsnarl just to move. Filipinos deserve to do not to locate, or walk to take a short distance. We waste time from reaching their destination as quickly as possible. As a result, driving in Manila has become a test of courage, cunning, inventiveness and recklessness. On the other hand, I've never seen such skillful driving in all my life, as our drivers ring and weave around traffic. I guess you need to, if you are to go anywhere in Manila.

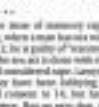
Our people's propensity for disregarding rules was most apparent in some of the signs I read along the road. "Secluded picnic area," one such sign read. To emphasize the point, there was a picture of a picnic table. "Children" up the cell area from Cavite was a huge sign, "Easy Sell," and under it in equally huge letters "RESOLUTELY NO CURRIER." I had to smile in spite of myself. Only in the Philippines!

Well, even with all the changes that I found coming home, previous together with my college friends was joyous and memorable. We quickly made a pledge to meet again in two years, Australia, or Or, as the Aussies call it, or Spain, to stay whatever of our town can still be found, then on to Provence in France. In their plans. The plan would commence before the end of the year. We wanted to meet to share impressions, trade stories of heartaches and triumphs, and try not to think of our looming years coming quickly upon us.

God willing, we would look once more into each other's eyes and see only the 18-year-olds that we once were.

Bobbie Tiu, 44, worked with Philippine Airlines as an *flight attendant* for another. She has settled in the United States in the early '90s and now works as the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board.

A no-fly zone for Libya



WORLD VIEW

John F. Kerry

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Leaders around the world are vigorously debating the advisability of establishing no-fly zone to stop the violence unfolding in Libya. Some say Senate, others think such action is a mistake to act. Others remember Bosnia, where President Bill Clinton later expressed regret for not acting to save innocent lives. But the action in Libya today are more appropriately understood to be the tragedy in southern Iraq in the waning days of the Saddam Gulf War 20 months ago.

As candidate Bush was running the long away in February 1991, President George H.W. Bush encouraged the Iraqi people to "take matters into their hands" and force Saddam to step aside "or step aside." When Iraqi Shiites, Kurds and Sunni Arabs rebelled against Saddam, they believed that American forces would protect them against their brutal dictator's supreme firepower.

Instead, when Iraq struck helicopters and other troops began slaughtering their own people, many men have been ordered to stand down. The world watched as thousands of Iraqis were slaughtered.

The situation in Libya today is not identical. Inspired by events in Tunisia and Egypt, the Libyan people came up spontaneously against the four decades of repression by Col. Muammar Gadhafi. Still, the specter that haunts me is the same—ordinary people facing off against an autocrat's superpower and well-armed soldiers, assuming on the free world to prevent them against massacre after it has been precipitated until hollowed their bravery with our words.

So far, Gadhafi's forces have relied on supposed ordinarily, but Gadhafi is dressed. He has it that he is either choosing to thwart the opposition to attack, unless he is willing to unleash scenes of brutal massacre, or waiting for the world to prove itself unwilling to act—in which point he might well begin killing civilians in large numbers.

We cannot wait for that to happen. We need to take corrective steps now so that we are prepared to implement a no-fly zone immediately if Gadhafi starts using his airpower to kill large numbers of civilians. Diplomacy is urgently needed to build international support for such a step.

The most important step Senator should come from the United Nations, where debate should begin immediately over a resolution authorizing a no-fly zone. China and Russia have expressed reservations. If the Security Council fails to authorize action, those of us Gadhafi's people in Libya's liberal civilians will have a more difficult choice should the violence escalate.

No one diplomatic efforts must extend beyond the United Nations. The support of Arab and the African Union are important. To avoid the perception of Rule of the United States attacking another Muslim country, the backing of the Arab world is also needed.

On that front, there are encouraging signs. The Arab League has called for Gadhafi to step down, and it has called for a UN-imposed no-fly zone. The Arab League may consider a similar proposal. Muslim countries in particular should support preparations for intervention if the violence spirals out of control.

The world cannot be allowed to think that he can massacre his people with impunity. And he cannot be free to make those remarks more lethal by using his airpower. If the UN cannot approve a resolution for implementing a no-fly zone, then the United States and its allies in Nato and the Arab world must be prepared to prevent a massacre like the one that occurred in Srebrenica in 1995, when more than 8,000 Bosnian men and boys were slaughtered.

Of course, imposing a no-fly zone would not be a panacea. It probably would not ignite balanced the situation in Libya nevertheless into a full-scale civil war. Gadhafi's forces have a significant advantage and more artillery. It is a tool that we should be ready to use if the situation warrants it, and it would signal to the opposition that it is not alone.

Before that decision is reached, the international community needs to be prepared to deal with the humanitarian and unofficial supplies to the rebels in eastern Libya. We must not allow them to be starved into submission.

The one option that should not be on the table is US ground troops. No one wants to see US forces become an occupying force, especially in another Muslim country. And, as President Barack Obama has said, the Libyan people must receive deprived of full ownership of their struggle for freedom, and Gadhafi must not be given a useful foil and scapegoat.

Perhaps the most threat of a no-fly zone will keep Gadhafi's pilots from using their helicopters and fighter jets to kill their own people. If it does not, we should make clear that we will lead no if they would to need the senseless slaughter of any more innocent people by a madman bent on maintaining power. The United States and the world community should also make clear—as we did in Bosnia and Kosovo—that we are taking a stand stand against a thug who is killing Muslims.

Project Syndicate

John Kerry, a US senator from Massachusetts, is chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Happy Women's Month!

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE CENTENARY of International Women's Day fills me with both hope and despair. Hope because it shows that the struggle for women's rights—which at the time of the first observance was closely allied with workers' rights—remains strong and organized and continues to be, more than ever, relevant in the face of power relations.

And despair because it means that accuracy of art, or more accurately, we still need to fight for it in large numbers to make their voices heard. Indeed, the fact that we need to observe International Women's Day—or in the Philippines, Women's Month—is a sign that pretty much half the race is not treated with the dignity and respect it truly equal. But there would be no need to single out women and girls for honor, silence or praise. We would take for granted women's equality and we would take it as matter of course that women enjoy the same rights and privileges as men.

Rep. Salvio Fuentes of Sikhayan, in a press conference the day after the deliberate one of three sponsorship speeches on the RH Bill (the other two were by principal author Rep. Edcel Lagman and Gabriela Rep. Luz Ilagan), pointed out that Filipino women are "subject to rights" because they be worse right we enjoy today "so, including the basic right of every citizen to cast a vote, already was subjected to a nationwide referendum where women suffragist roamed the countryside to drum "Boto ng babae" and the overwhelming vote in favor of suffrage for women.

So dominant group has ever voluntarily and willingly surrendered its power or privileges. And would the latest struggle to get the perpetrator an a rape bill passed, when legislators couldn't even muster the courage to pass a measure that would declare the rape victim's sexual past irrelevant, including homosexual rape in the bill, arguing that it was "immoral"—and therefore non-existent? It would other pieces of legislation struggle to get the rape bill passed, and only then because Congress needed to show up its public image.

* * *

SO WHERE is it that Filipino women are fighting for today? We have had a slew of bills passed

Empowerment. Take the statutory rape limit of 12 years. I can't help but wonder why our good Catholic bishops and priests are so adamantly against the provision of age-appropriate sexuality education in our grade schools and high schools. Are we not leaving our girls—and boys—vulnerable to rape when we refuse to provide them with the basic information and knowledge?

"Empowerment" is a word bandied about during this women's Month, but there could be no empowered women unless she was free of all an environment that would deny her the right and the power to stand up for her rights against her parents and other adults in her life empowered her rights as a child, allowed her to speak her mind and reason her side, and learned to her concerns and express her feelings. From these seeds of confidence and trust are "empowered" women born.

* * *

AND SO this is why I still celebrate International Women's Day and Women's Month. I still choose to because I have a daughter and a son, and it is my responsibility to make sure that their lives are just as "empowered" adults that also as adults with a fuller range of freedoms than I was allowed when I was their age.

For my daughter especially, I wish for her to grow up in a world where she is not an option—and none—that I enjoyed. It is inconceivable for me, for instance, to imagine that she would be living in a time when her contraceptive choices would be limited to a single "approved" method, like natural family planning. I would never be to marry the fish image of milk, happy and effective family planning methods to choose from, and to participate with her future husband in decide freely how large or small their family will be.

For both of them, I wish happy marriages and happy families, for indeed, from experience I know a family like that is free of strife, that fulfills one's deepest aspirations, and contains one's spirit at the worst of a full life. Happy Women's Month!

THEY SAID

Going against history

"Those around him have crystallized around the notion that they perpetuate power because ordinary people will be mistreated and they will be held unaccountable for it. And so on the streets that they are making calculations in their own minds about which way history is moving, they should know history is moving against Colonel Gadhafi."

—US Senator Richard Shelby on supporters of Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi

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TALK of the TOWN

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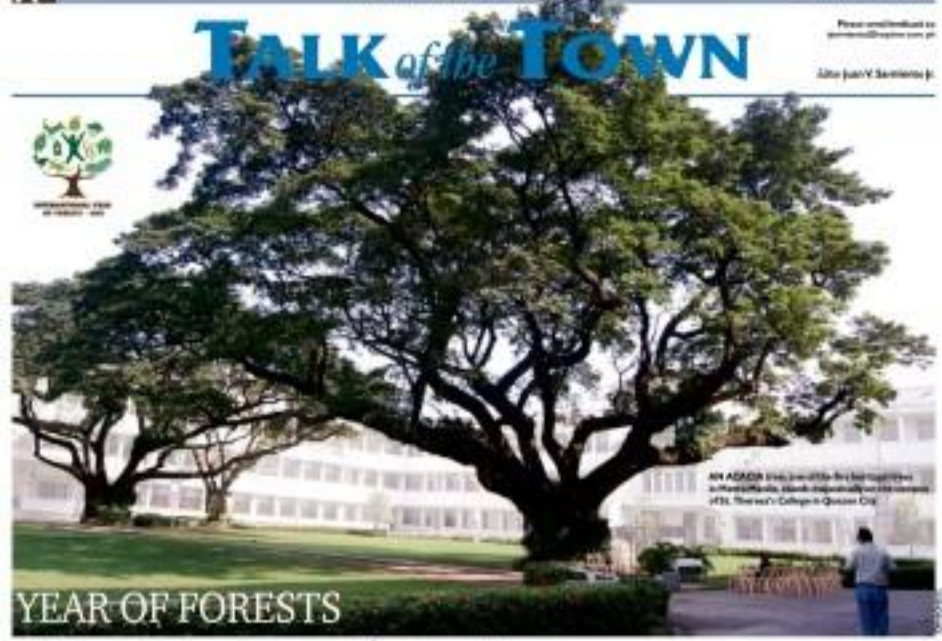

Honoring heritage trees

By Nikko Dizon

ENTREPRENEUR Wilson Ang bought a coconut farm in Sucat, Parañaque, in 1974 to be the headquarters of Bio Research, one of the country's more popular pest controls.

The previous owner, Benito Antiquez, had embraced organic when he could. In that the old campsite was (Demetrodes indica) standing on that patch of land since he farmed.

"My Manong said that the tree was a legacy of his forebears and that it even witnessed the world wars," Ang's daughter, Charlene Claire, told the Inquirer.

Indeed, the campsite tree had seen "all changes Parañaque had gone through," said the 27 year-old Chairman, who now works at Bio Research assistant general manager.

200 years old

The tree is estimated to be around 200 years old, according to Ang.

Not only its age but also its size and magnificence qualified the campsite tree to be one of the five officially marked heritage trees by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Metro Manila since the Heritage Tree conservation program was launched by the agency in 2009.

The four others are a "kaatagpong" tree (*Sloanea* sp. *philippinensis*) at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center and a "lumbang" tree (*Aleurites moluccanus*) at the military camper of the Philippine and Animals Welfare Bureau, both located on North Avenue; a mahogany tree or mayla (*Swietenia macrophylla*) at St. Therese's College in Quezon City; and a "dalisay" tree (*Dipterocarpus validus*) at Kalayaan Elementary School in Novaliches—all in Quezon City (see photos.)

Around 60 more trees have been located in Quezon City and Manila as heritage trees but they have yet to be officially declared as such by the DENR pending further evaluation that would ensure they meet the criteria.

"LUMBANG" tree at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City

"KAATAGPONG" tree at Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City

Trunk size

Among these is leaning monkey (measuring more than 100 centimeters and also-ball (more) above-the ground.

It also has to be "healthy native or endemic, exotic, rare, threatened and endangered trees," said the DENR-NCR memorandum circular that formalized the Heritage Tree program.

The DENR-NCR's Protected Area, Wildlife and Coastal Zone Management Service came up with the program with the goal of preserving and protecting these urban gems, and conserving his diversity amid the rapid development of the country's capital.

SAMMALOC tree in Parañaque

Moreover, it encourages the participation of the community in preserving these trees.

And like the research's campsite tree, most of the heritage trees are located in private properties and government and private institutions, which boosts the chance of these trees being harmed.

With trees being on stress for the rapid development of Metro Manila, the DENR-NCR said that the owners and the property managers are the ones who take care of the tree for them to survive.

Pruning, surgery

The DENR-NCR, for its part, will extend technical assistance to the owners of the heritage tree in its maintenance such as pruning and tree surgery.

Going ahead, the DENR-NCR said it has there should be one tree for every five people in Metro Manila.

With a population of 12 million, the ideal number of trees in the capital should number three million.

Endangered are taken for granted, trees are a source of food, medicine and conservation materials. They also provide shade, anti-wind and noise breaks, and ecological functions such as nitrogen fixation and carbon sequestration.

And, would a landscape or garden complete without trees?

The Philippines has 3,000 tree species, the most famous of which is narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*), the national tree and one of the world's hardest woods, according to the DENR-NCR.

The Heritage Tree program is being implemented only in Metro Manila, for now.

But with "favorable results" from the pioneer program, the agency expressed hope that other regions would adopt or replicate the program.

Tree house

Back in Sucat, Parañaque, the Angs recently built a two-story tree house around the campsite tree, designing it in such a way that no construction material would be inherently unadvisable.

It allows the children who visit the Research on their field trip to have a better appreciation of the heritage tree so they can go near and climb on it.

Even in its very old age, the campsite tree continues to grow albeit not as robust as before, said Charlene.

"Once in a while, we see green leaves sprouting from the branches," she said.

It's enough to bring hope that there are some years still left for this heritage tree.

"DUHAT" tree at Kalayaan Elementary School in Novaliches, Quezon City

Candidate heritage trees

Location	Species	No.
Manila		
■ 20 in Padre Gil, Sta. Ana, Manila	Balayti (*Ficus* sp.)	1
■ Rizal Park	Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*)	1
	Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*)	1
■ Dimasalang cor Isaac Peral	Acacia (*Samanea saman*)	2
■ Arellano University (Andres Soriano Memorial College of Law building)	Narra	1
■ Legarda Compound, Legarda, Sampaloc	Lam-ihan (*Vitex talbotii*)	1
■ Malacañang	Kalantas (*Toona* sp.)	1
Parañaque		
■ Parañaque City Hall, Baclaran	Mabolo (*Diospyros blancoi*)	1
Quezon City		
■ La Mesa Watershed	Agoho (*Casuarina equisetifolia*)	1
	Kamagong (*Diospyros philippinensis*)	1
	Kalantas	1
	Dao (*Dracontomelon dao*)	1
	Pili (*Canarium ovatum*)	1
	Lauan (*Shorea* sp.)	1
■ La Mesa Eco Park	Narra	1
	Dao	1
	Pili (*Canarium ovatum*)	1
	Toog (*Tectona grandis*)	1
	Molo (*Spondias* sp.)	1
■ Diliman Preparatory School, Diliman	Acacia	1
■ DENR-Ninoy	Mindoro (*Vitex parviflora*)	1
	Narra	1
	Mahogany	1
	Tanguile (*Shorea negrosensis*)	1
■ Veterans Memorial Medical Center	Kaatagpong (*Sloanea obtusifolia*)	1
	Kamagong	1
■ San Antonio Subdivision, Commonwealth	Narra	1
■ Ateneo Medical College, Katipunan	Dahlia (*Dalbergia retusa*)	1
■ No. 10 Road corner Road 6, Kaunlaran, Project 6	Molave (*Vitex parviflora*)	1
■ Diamond to Compound, Novaliches	Kaatagpong	1
■ DENR-Central Office	Ipil (*Intsia bijuga*)	1
	Kalantas (*Toona calantas*)	1
	Kupang (*Parkia timoriana*)	1
■ Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center	Lumbang (*Aleurites moluccana*)	1
	Mahogany	1
	Narra	1
	Toog	1
	Tanguile (*Shorea negrosensis*)	1
■ Veterans to Mindoro Extension, Kaunlaran Road	Acacia	1
■ 18 to 1 Lane 10, Batasan Hills, Kaunlaran, Project 6	Mahogany	1
	Narra	1
■ Batasan Street, Batasan Hills, Kaunlaran, Project 6	Acacia	1
■ Ilang-ilang corner Batasan Street, Project 6	Kamagong	1
Makati		
■ McKinley Road, Forbes Park	Acacia	1

With reporters' files and photos

Angels with dirty faces are teacher's pets

From page A1

the Philippines and harass the women who have made a difference in their communities through the help of USAID.

But when Ilirt spoke about who she is and what she does, the passion of her story transformed the petite 27-year-old into the perfect USAID poster girl.

"Since I was a child, I have always wanted to work to help poorest children because I know I can help them rise from their poverty. Today, I am proud to be an international manager (teaching) to 6th grade out-of-school children, 12 to 24 years of age here to read, write and count," she said.

'So they'll not be fooled'

Ilirt's goal was straightforward. She wanted to teach Bajjao children so they will not be fooled when they sell fish and other products to unscrupulous traders.

"Among us Muslim Filipinos, the Bajjao tribe is looked down upon due to their lifestyle," she said.

The enduring, mostly animist Bajjao is one of the three main groups...the other two are the Iranun and Samal—inhabiting the islands of the Sulu archipelago, of which the Tawi-Tawi is a province.

The plight of Bajjao children made it go to formal school was what made Ilirt choose to become a teacher in the alternative learning program of USAID's Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) project.

Ilirt's teachers classes on basic literacy for Bajjao children, some of whom are nearly teenage, at Barangay Lamion in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi's capital.

Regular home visits

Ilirt was to find out soon enough how difficult the task was.

"I spend many hours preparing creative session guides, spending my own money to buy toys and producing colorful teaching materials to catch my learners' attention, that they will understand the lessons and keep them coming back to the learning center," said Ilirt who only earns eighteen thousand pesos monthly but is so into her students because reaching poor children has long been her goal.

If her students are unable to make it to class, she settles them out in their homes in order to reach them.

"I have asthma and other ailments but I manage to make home visits regularly," she said.

Ilirt said she also has to constantly convince her students and their parents about the importance of education.

"Education is important so that people cannot fool you," she told them.

Aside from being a fishing village, Bajjao children take on the burden of selling fish daily to help their families, she said. But being ignorant and illiterate, the kids often fall prey to cahoot members and tribes who cheat them.

"Sometimes, they are misclassified since they don't know how to count and they like other residents) are not afraid to do that because those children are ignorant and can't fight back," she said.

It was a daily struggle to keep the children in class, she said. Sometimes, the parents would fetch their kids in the middle of class and send them out to sell fish.

No dropouts

Ilirt chuckled when asked to describe her students. "They don't wear slippers and they smell bad. They come to class without having taken a bath or brushed their teeth. They wear dirty clothes and have dirty nails," she said, though not unselfconsciously.

An angry neighbor once threw water at her classroom in the barangay hall, scolding her for teaching "bad-smelling children."

"But even if they smell bad, I still keep teaching them," said Ilirt, who has been at the job since graduating in 2008.

Ilirt's persistence has paid off as she proudly reports that there have been no dropouts.

"One of my students passed the Department of Education's literacy and equivalency examination which she has named what is equivalent to an elementary graduate certificate," she said.

That star pupil is now in Malaysia, where, Ilirt hopes, she will be literate enough not to be made a fool of in her job as a waitress.

PORTRAIT OF COMMITMENT Ilirt alongside USAID's 50th anniversary poster bearing her picture

Ilirt returned a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Mahardika Institute of Technology in Bongao, finishing with second honors.

Who's Ilirt?

The daughter of a Christian schoolteacher mother who converted to Islam and a Tausug father, Ilirt describes herself as a "muslima" from the Sinama ethnic group.

EquALLS implemented in coordination with the Department of Education, helps children in Mindanao get the equivalent of elementary or high school enrollment through an alternative learning system.

Its wider reach only her second step was Marawi, Lanao del Sur, but couldn't constrain herself at the prospect of meeting the US ambassador.

"This is such a big opportunity for me," gushed the mother of a two-year-old boy.

The event was attended by among others, Lanao governor Mamintal Adiong Jr., Marawi City Mayor Fahad Salic Dimaporo, the country's first female Muslim senator; former presidential spokesperson Annabelle Abaya, and USAID Philippines Mission director Gloria Steele.

Also honored that night were Ilirt's colleagues, Gilner Hasjan, Seha Sahali, Heya Gadzan and Cosmen Ibrao who provided accessible and support services to teachers and children through their bring-to-clinics, as well as Mayor Zaydelle Sahing of Lapanan, Jamboanga del Sur, who pursued an aggressive anti-tuberculosis program for her constituents.

USAID strategy

Steele, who returned to her country of birth after serving 30 years in different USAID assignments around the world, stressed the importance of curbing maternal and infant mortality.

"Mothers do not have to die in order to bring life into this world," Steele said in her speech.

Thomas said it was fitting to hold the USAID rollout on the day the world celebrated Women's Day.

"It key to USAID's successful development strategy here in the Philippines and around the world has been investing in women and girls. As it could not be more appropriate that we launch this program on International Women's Day," he said in his speech.

USAID, the state agency that provides development assistance to countries around the world, has given more than $1 billion in assistance to the Philippines since the Philippines over the past few decades, according to the US embassy.

Thomas, who was applauded for his valiant effort at greeting Filipino women in Bisaya, Ilocano, and the women honored that night were a "testament to our many achievements."

Noy back, grateful

From page A1

He issued the assurance that his administration continued to keep watch over the people's immediate need for government response in times of calamities and the long drawn-out aftermath of economic growth.

"First of all, we thank the Lord Almighty that our country was spared the devastation brought by the tsunami generated by the earthquake in Japan," Mr. Aquino said at a speech he gave at Ninoy Aquino International Airport at around 11:00 p.m. Friday.

"It is because of crisis like this that we are working hard to strengthen our economy so that we can better face challenges as we attend to any challenge," he said.

As of yesterday morning, the government had yet to receive any report of a Filipino casualty in the aftermath of Friday's earthquake and tsunami in Japan, according to Mr. Aquino's deputy spokesperson Abigail Valte.

"We are hopeful that it will stay that way," she said over government radio station dzRB.

PH teams to help

Valte said the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council had formed teams to assist in the post-disaster operations in Japan. She said a contingent from the Philippine National Red Cross would also be sent to help.

In his arrival speech, the President said he had conveyed the Philippines' sympathies to the government of Japan. "We continue to coordinate with them so to make sure that 11 Filipinos in their country are safe and are being given immediate relief," he added.

Mr. Aquino sent a letter on Friday to Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan assuring the Philippines' concern is as well as its willingness to be of assistance.

"During this difficult time, I assure Your Excellency that the Philippine government stands ready to extend any support and assistance within its capability in Japan's efforts to cope with the effects of this tragic event," Mr. Aquino's letter stated in part.

Quick warnings, response

Malacañang also thanked the media for the quick airing of tsunami advisory nationwide.

Valte said communities in Southern Luzon were evacuated as early as Friday afternoon as a result of the warnings about the rough tides and tsunami, the Internet, and telecommunications.

"We just want to thank our friends in the media, who helped disseminate the information particularly to the provinces on the eastern side of the Philippines that have been put on alert," Valte said.

"When we thought we had, every body started moving," she said.

Valte likewise lauded government agencies for their swift response despite the President's physical absence during the crisis/disaster.

Among the main agencies were the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Social Welfare and Development, and of National Defense, and the police and military.

"We can see quick response and we also can see that if we really want to get fast, we can send the information quickly," Valte said.

"We can find cases if President Aquino was abroad, the response of our government was quick, to ensure that there will be no damage in our country," she said.

Valte acknowledged that the government's disaster response could still be improved.

"But...again, just as Phivolcs has been saying, we want to remind households not to rely solely on the government, its our communities, and even in our families and homes, we should be prepared for calamities like this," she said.

Frequent drills

Valte said the Friday experience should make it less difficult to persuade Filipinos to participate in regular earthquake and other safety drills.

"Frequent drills will really help us. But we will need the cooperation of employers, of schools, and especially the owners of tall buildings," she said.

Valte also underscored the importance of building inspection to ensure structural integrity in the event of an earthquake.

"Safety is [a requirement] of the building code. We owe its change of the inspection in the local government units," she said.

Valte likewise called on swimmers and fishermen to continue exercising caution even after the tsunami alert warnings had been lifted.

"We would remind communities should remain alert and continue monitoring the situation/events.

She added that Malacañang hoped to meet genuine enough funds for maritime equipment that would give the people adequate warning of an oncoming disaster

Hail! Pinoy nurses commit to stay in Libya

From page A1

Cornejo said many Filipino nurses working at the Hospital of the Tripoli Medical Center, Libya's largest hospital, and another 600 at Benghazi Medical Center—had decided to remain behind out of a professional commitment, as well as financial considerations.

After chaotic scenes, however, had opted to leave Libya, as the borders reported last week, with at least 70 from two Tripoli hospitals returning to Manila one of four as the hostilities escalated.

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premature of the Filipino presence, "because of what they observed in the face of the fight—they remained and served the interests of the people of Libya."

Cornejo related how during his visit, he often met fathers with their children and "I'd ask them, 'where's the mother?' And they'd answer, 'no, my wife is a nurse, she decided to stay and told us to go.' Why? 'Because there's another..."

As a result, he said, Filipinos had developed a good reputation among Libyans and among other Africans.

"In Africa, we were in Libya, in Tunisia, people would know us as, 'Philippine, Philippine.' Our reputation is good in that part of the world," Cornejo said with a chuckle.

Pay is good

But he conceded that the Filipinos nurses were also motivated by financial reasons, noting the excellent perks and privileges they received for working in the oil-rich North African country.

"They'd tell me also agony nurses/it would be a point...the privileges of our nurses in Libya are so good. The highest paid nurses here [$800 to $2,000]."

Moreover, in the last two weeks, the Arab government "has increased their salaries not just one but three-fold," Cornejo said.

The benefits are even greater for those who have been there for 15 years. If they were to leave, "they told me, we'd like to forfeit our gratuities and benefits," he said.

On its own, Cornejo said, the Philippine government was already to get 6,000 Filipinos out of Libya, of the 14,000 who had fled the fighting. Of the 6,000 more than 5,000 Filipinos had returned to the Philippines, mostly under arrangements made by their multinational employers.

6,000 saved in 10 days

"This very pleased to report that after mentioned and contained was, are and kind operations we were able to successfully evacuate from Libya by direct government action approximately 6,000 OFWs in a span of only 10-days," he said.

He commented this with the repatriation of 6,000 Filipinos from Lebanon in 2006 which the Philippine government accomplished in seven weeks.

Cornejo said the Philippine operations in Libya had taken out all the Filipinos who wanted to leave.

"Yes, all I'm saying now is that all the OFWs who wanted to leave Libya, we have taken them out. There are Filipinos now are those who decided on their own free will and volition to stay," he said.

Rizal logs on, gets in touch with netizens

From page A1

to social media to make their "Lolo Rizal" more accessible to today's youth and to Filipinos born 100 years after him.

The national hero was born on June 19, 1861, and the nation observes the "Rizal Sesquicentenary Celebration" this year.

Friends and monuments

Posted on the facebook page, titled "150th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal" are photos of different Rizal monuments with quotes from some of the texts and Rizal's novels.

"Some of the visitors were concerned by translating the quotes to Tagalog or Spanish, so the quotes are given some depth," said Jerome Bautista, 32, a fifth-generation Rizalenthusiast.

The page has around 1,344 friends with some 84 photos of monuments of the national hero from and abroad.

One photo featured a circa-1930 Rizal monument in Naga City, with the quote: "Sanlan nas an oroldag. Il hinasera orayaw sehare. Sanlan is like the light, it is the sun. It is the heritage of all."

It is just one of many activities lined up for Rizal's 150th birthday being organized by the clan. The Rizal family began the 150-day countdown to the 150th birthday in February.

'Flash mob'

The state-run University of the Philippines started its own 150-day countdown last Friday, with a lightning rally called the "flash mob" at the Arts and Sciences building of the UP Diliman campus last Friday.

For a brief four minutes, some 30 to 50 students read the last lines of Rizal's novel, the "El Filibusterismo," in which Padre Florentino exhorts the youth to make the supreme sacrifice for the country.

The students, armed with battered paperbacks, danced and sang their hearts out in a free dance, reportedly symbolizing a near-revolution.

"The flash mob is our way of making Rizal more popular because we want the students to be more active in Rizal's 150th birthday anniversary," said Ronald Constantino Jr., a professor at the College of Arts and Letters.

The UP wants to keep the message "short and brief" so long the celebrations closer to the youth, according to the organizers.

Bautista attended the "flash mob" as the official representative of the Rizal family. He is a descendant of one of Rizal's four sisters, Olympia.

Bautista said more monuments of the "Lolo Rizal" are set to be unveiled—one in Calamba, Laguna, the town's hometown, and another one on the US East Coast to be installed by a US-based Filipino sculptor.

Still relevant

According to Bautista, even a century after the hero's death, Filipinos should continue to be inspired by Rizal.

He said Rizal has not lost his relevance as the social ills that spoke of and wrote about more than 100 years ago still hold true today.

"Based on what we are seeing, there is still no hope. There is still the social classes, many things that we need to address. It is really timely that we remind that social context and look back on his life," he said a little differently as he said it was his first time to be interviewed.

Bautista said he had heard stories from his mother, whose ancestor is Saturo. Rizal's nephew and the town of Olympia.

"We never told anecdotes of how he was raised in his letters, and he motivated our Lolo Antoto to pursue his interest in medicine," he recalled.

Bautista said he looks on Rizal as "just another relative," but with the obligation to carry on his legacy centuries hence.

"He was really a behind-the-scenes guy, so we as his descendants are trying to continue that, by working with the government even if it's less prolific," he said.

Nothing has changed

For Campanano, nothing much has changed since Rizal's time, noting that the Philippines still remains a Third World country.

"Yes, we have improved visually, but no, nothing has changed. The leaders have changed, but it is still the same," he said.

Campanano, who also teaches a course on Rizal's work and writings, said it is important for students to be more involved not just in remembering Rizal's birthday but what should be done.

"Some students still don't know about Rizal but can glad that some students have grown to appreciate his life and writings beyond the Noli and Fili," he said.

The UP's Rizal Sesquicentenary Celebration will include a photo exhibit of Rizal monuments here April to June; an international conference and essay-writing contest, and a staging of the "Noli Me Tangere" as an opera in November, among other activities.

'There are no words to say'

From page A1

base for dealing with catastrophes. They will help evaluate needs and coordinate assistance with Japanese authorities," Elizabeth Zhyr, spokesperson of the US Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), told Reuters.

The country's struggled to assess the full extent of the devastation wreaked by the massive tsunami, which was unleashed by the strongest quake ever recorded in Japan.

The towering wall of water pulverized the northeastern city of Sendai, the biggest city in the area near the quake's epicenter, where police reportedly said 200-300 bodies had been found on the coast.

More than 215,000 people were in emergency shelters, police said.

The full scale of those left homeless was believed to be much higher, with police saying they had not received a tally from Miyagi prefecture, the hardest-hit province that is home to Sendai.

"What used to be residential areas and commercial areas are now ravaged seas and fires are still blazing there," Prime Minister Naoto Kan said after surveying the damage by helicopter.

The unstoppable black tide yanked up shipping containers, wrecked cars and the debris of shattered homes and crushed through the streets of Sendai and coastal agricultural fields, leaving a mud slick that covered vast tracts of land.

'Nuclear meltdown'

Adding to anxieties was the fate of nuclear power plants in the region. Japan has declared states of emergency at five nuclear reactors at two power plants after the units lost cooling ability.

The most troubled case is facing meltdown, officials have said.

Smoke was seen billowing from the Fukushima No. 1 atomic plant about 250 kilometers northeast of Tokyo after an explosion at the aging facility destroyed the walls and roof, reports said.

The blast reportedly left several workers injured.

Premier has been huddling up in the reactor—it's now twice the normal level—and Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency told reporters yesterday that the plant was nearing "radioactive repair."

Officials said they were measuring radiation levels in the area.

The reactor in trouble has already leaked some radiation: Operators have detected eight times the normal radiation levels outside the facility. Around 1,000 times normal inside Unit 1's control room.

Yoshio Shimoi, an official with Japan's nuclear safety commission, said that even if there was a meltdown, it wouldn't affect people outside a 10-kilometer radius—an assessment that angered some residents who felt authorities were downplaying the danger area had been evacuated, he said.

Thousands were also evacuated from near a second plant, Fukushima No. 2, which also suffered damage to its cooling system.

The Japan Ministry of military evacuees by procuring by boats and helicopters.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan said 50,000 troops would join rescue and recovery efforts following the quake and the tsunami.

"Many of homes along the coastline were washed away, and the bodies out there," said Kan after inspecting the quake area to a helicopter. "I realized the extremely serious damage the tsunami caused."

In quake-hit areas, 1.6 million households had no power on Saturday and more than one million households were without water. Telecommunications networks were also hit.

The transport network was still fragmented: Trains leading in quake-hit areas were closed, except for emergency vehicles. Mobile communications were spotty and calls to the devastated areas were getting misconnected.

Local TV stations broadcast footage of people lining up for water and food such as rice balls in Fukushima, city officials were handing out bottled beverages, snacks and blankets. But there were huge areas that were surrounded by water and were unreachable.

The hospital in Miyagi prefecture was now surrounded by water. The staff had patrons on 50S so to medicine and were moving white flags.

Kan said a total of 100 military aircraft and 26 ships have been sent to the area, which continued to be joined by emergency workers from around Japan. 1,25 aftershocks have occurred, many of them above magnitude 6.0, which even alone would be considered strong.

The unfolding disaster prompted offers of help from dozens of countries.

International emergency aid

Leading international offers of help, President Barack Obama monitored the US military to provide emergency aid after what he called a "terribly heartbreaking" disaster.

The United States, which has more than 40,000 military personnel in Japan, ordered a flotilla including two aircraft carriers and support ships to the region to provide aid.

China said rescuers were ready to help with quake relief.

The roots of US disaster relief officials includes several Japanese speakers and access to international expert, she said.

The USA announced late on Friday that four foreign search and rescue teams—Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and the United States—were on their way after Japan requested help.

Singapore is also deploying an urban search and rescue team to Japan, Ryen told Reuters on Saturday as Switzerland announced it was sending a team of some 22 rescue and medical experts accompanied by nine sniffer dogs.

"People will have seen (in the scale of it, it's truly devastating, so we will need a really big coordinated international response and I think it's pleasing to see that in that," Foreign Office minister Jeremy Browne told Sky News.

Rare good news

In a rare piece of good news, a ship that was earlier reported missing was found swept over to sea and safely passed aboard was rescued by helicopter.

But mostly the picture was one of utter devastation.

Most worse in Tokyo: rescued was using again yesterday after the city had been brought to a near standstill the day before. Tens of thousands of people had been stranded with the rail network down, jamming the streets with cars, buses and trucks trying to get out of the city.

Japan's worst previous quake was a 8.3 magnitude temblor in Kanto that killed 143,000 people in 1923. A 7.2-magnitude quake in Kobe killed 6,400 people in 1995. *Reports from AFP, AP and Reuters*

Coast is clear, says Phivolcs

By Leila B. Salaverria

DESPITE AFTERSHOCKS in Japan, the Philippines have no more threats from tsunamis unless the new quakes are similar in size of greater magnitude than the Big One last Friday, according to Renato Solidum Jr., director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Phivolcs lifted late on Friday the tsunami alert it had issued to major coastlines in the country's most significant ground. (See story on Page A30.)

In a bulletin, it said that based on sea level data from the National Mapping Resource Information Authority, the sea level changes were minor.

But Phivolcs still advised caution. "The possibility of observed wave heights suggests that the threat of a hazardous tsunami has passed. However, the public is still advised to avoid going on the beach and sailing out to sea. Boat operations at sea should accommodate with the local port authorities to check if it is safe to navigate. Ships moored for them to be able to dock safely."

On the phone with the Inquirer, Solidum said the aftershocks in Japan were not as big as Friday's 8.9 magnitude quake. Even a 7.2-magnitude aftershock, he said, only causes minor waves, which did not even require a warning from Phivolcs.

"There is no threat of a tsunami coming from those ... aftershocks because those were not of a big magnitude," he said.

On Friday, a few hours after the 8.9-quake struck Japan, Phivolcs raised Tsunami Alert Level 2 in 19 provinces.

Japan quake preparedness saved lives

HIDDEN INSIDE the skeletons of high-rise towers, sofas must bring, giant rubber pads and embedded hydraulic shock absorbers make modern Japanese buildings among the earthiest in the world during a major earthquake. And during the Japanese disaster, tsunami warning signs, towering tsunamis and well-marked escape routes offer some protection from walls of water.

These precautions, along with earthquake and tsunami drills that are conducted many times a year, show why Japan is the best prepared country for the twin disasters of earthquake and tsunami—practices that undoubtedly saved lives Friday although the 8.9 and death toll is unknown.

In Japan, where earthquakes are far more common than they are in the United States, the building codes have long been much more stringent on specific matters like how much a building may sway during a quake.

Most advanced

After the Kobe earthquake in 1995, which killed about 6,000 people and injured 26,000, Japan also put enormous resources into research on protecting structures, as well as retrofitting thousands of older and more vulnerable structures. Japan has spent billions of dollars developing the most advanced technology against earthquake and tsunami.

Japan has more seismic broker than the United States in earthing new buildings with advanced devices called base isolation pads and energy-dissipation units to dampen the ground shaking during an earthquake.

The isolation devices are essentially giant rubber and steel pads that are installed at the very bottom of the foundation for a building, which then simply sits on top of the pads. The dissipation units are built into a building's structural skeleton. They are hydraulic cylinders that dissipate and contract as the building sways, stopping the motion of energy.

Of course, nothing is entirely foolproof. Structural engineers monitoring the events from a distance cautioned that the death toll was likely to rise as more information became available. Jack Moehle, a structural engineer at University of California in Berkeley, said that video of the disaster seemed to show that some older buildings had suffered collapsed.

The country that gave the world the word tsunami, spurred by in the 1960s and 1990s, built seawalls in many communities, some as high as 40 feet, which amounted to its first line of defense against the water from the coastal towns. In the event of an earthquake, sprawls of sensors are set up to set off alarms to notify inland residences and automatically shut down floodgates to prevent water from surging upriver.

Cities of the seawalls say they are necessary and built at the urging of national officials and discourage them from participating in regular evacuation drills. Moreover, by literally cutting residents off from the ocean, the seawalls reduce their ability to understand the sea by observing wave patterns, critics say.

Videos from Friday's tsunami spilled over some seawalls in the affected areas.

The tsunami caused over residences in Sendai city, washing cars, houses and farm equipment inland before reversing direction and carrying them out to sea," according to a statement by a Japanese engineer, Eli Ishiyama, the chief scientist for Asia-Pacific Society of Civil Engineers.

Saved lives

But Japan's "massive public education program" would in the end have saved the most lives, said Rich Eisner, a retired structural preparedness expert who was attending a conference on the topic at National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland, on Friday.

In one town, Ofunato, which was struck by a major tsunami in 1960, dozens of signs in Japanese and English mark escape routes, and emergency towers are tested there more a day, Eisner said.

Initial reports from Ofunato on Friday suggested that hundreds of homes had been swept away; the death toll was not yet known. But Matthew Francis of UBS Corp. and a member of the civil engineering society's tsunami subcommittee, said that relatively may have been the critical factor.

"For a trained population, a matter of five or 10 minutes is all you may need to get to high ground," Francis said. *New York Times News Service*

'I hope we still get to sleep'

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

THE DAY the earthquake and tsunami hit Japan, Nathan Gilbert Quimpo, a Filipino professor of political science and international relations at the University of Tsukuba, the second oldest city of Tsukuba, city located outside Tokyo, was in his office.

Incidently, books fell off the shelves and one shelf crashed down.

"Since I've experienced a lot of earthquakes here, I just waited for the 30 seconds to pass, then I went out and on and got outside. The room was shaking terribly. I held on to the two computer monitors on my desk—they would have fallen had I not held on to them," Quimpo said in an e-mail to this reporter.

Shortly afterward, he said, he had to leave the building "because there were aftershocks."

Quimpo was active in the movement against the Marcos dictatorship, the friends in the Philippines who have not been able to reach him after the quake and tsunami kept tabs of his Facebook status.

He assured those who were worried that he and his Dutch wife Anja were fine.

"It has been a bit scary Anja was at home. Glasses and plates fell out from cupboards. Two big bookcases fell of books came crashing down," he said.

More tremors

Yesterday, nearly eight hours after the big quake, "we still have a lot of aftershocks," wrote Quimpo, who has lived in Japan for four and a half years.

"But no one in the neighborhood got seriously injured, there's another aftershock," he said.

Meanwhile, his university's vice president, Hamide Sakaki, issued through its web site an announcement to teachers and professors: "Please remain calm and stay safe. No need to come to the university on March 12th and 13th."

But distress was absent. Asked how his Japanese colleagues and students were coping, Quimpo wrote: "Okay. No panic. They're used to having earthquakes."

He said his university had a program in environmental science, a discipline that would be needed in the weeks and months of rehabilitation that Japan would undergo.

To the question of how Tsukuba-city was faring in terms of disaster preparedness, Quimpo said: "All Japan is quite prepared. The Japanese are used to earthquakes.

Useless cell phones

Quimpo said his immediate instinct after the first quake was to call Anja.

"My wife was at home. I tried to call her by my mobile. But it didn't work. I biked home. A lot of people were outside the building of the university," he wrote.

While biking home, Quimpo saw many people milling around the central train station.

"Apparently, train services had been disrupted. There were long queues in front of telephone booths. Mobile phones also didn't work. There was no water coming out of the tap," he said, adding:

"Most supermarkets and convenients were closed. For dinner, Anja and I made do with leftovers."

Quimpo's latest Facebook status read: "Bus fully laden bookcases rushed to our bed. Fortunately, I was in my office and Anja was in the living room.

"But the house was a mess with all the broken glass and ceramics.

"Aftershocks, as many of them, kept waking us up last night."

Quimpo has a simple wish for the coming nights: "I hope we still get to sleep."

Searching for loved ones via hotlines, Facebook

From page A1

But many Nepalese in Tokyo were able to communicate through Facebook accounts, he said.

At least 400 skilled workers from Sengyo Distributed and 28 from Cagayan de Oro City are in Narita and Tokyo to undergo training under the association's program.

Espinosa said there was no record that anyone of them had been harmed.

OFA hot lines

Abroad but, there are 305,071 Filipinos in Japan. The interagency convened to chair the fate of them in the quake and tsunami-ravaged areas.

In Manila, many Filipinos have swamped the hot lines established by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to as affirm to get in touch with loved ones. (Requests) for information may also be e-mailed to dfaaustria.sos@gmail.com.)

The DFA said that since Friday, they received more than 100 calls through the hot lines.

"The phone has been ringing almost nonstop," said Anna Marie Santos, a foreign service officer detailed at the Office of the Undersecretary of Migrant Workers Affairs.

Santos leads a 20/8 team who answers calls from distressed Filipinos and takes down their details.

She said many of the callers were crying and panic-stricken as they "bombarded" us "bogged" down with questions about their parents, siblings, spouses or children living in Japan.

"Some of them are wives on vacation here and looking for their Japanese husbands. Others are managers looking for their Japanese partners," she said.

Of the 200 Manila callers, only 11 could not breathe a sigh of relief. The Philippine Embassy in Tokyo said it had established contact with them and found out that they were safe, Undersecretary Eduardo Malaya, also the assistant secretary for legal affairs.

Under the setup, the names, addresses and other details are processed by DFA personnel and relayed to the embassy in Tokyo. "The embassy will try to trace those individuals and verify their conditions," Malaya said.

Life or death

Santos, a psychology graduate who also handled the hot lines for inquiries involving the crisis in Libya, said the nature of the calls to Japan was different.

"When people called about Libya, they were concerned about how their relatives would come home. With Japan, people want to know if their relatives are still alive. It's a life or death situation for them," she said in an interview.

Santos also said the calls showed the kinship between Filipinos and Japanese, noting that in the many of the cases, some of the inquiries concerned Japanese nationals.

"Filipinos have a bond with the Japanese people. We have an affiliation and a shared history," she said.

Santos said she had gathered from the phone calls that Filipinos in Japan were no longer just "overseas Filipino workers" living in smaller cities. "They have developed roots there," she said.

Counseling skills

Most of the callers were not aware of where their relatives were living in Japan, and thought that the earlier country had been ravaged by the earthquake, according to Santos.

"They would begin the call by saying: 'Hello, my brother or sister is in Japan.' Those who are aware would immediately give an address or a building and ask if that was affected by the quake," she said.

Santos said counseling skills were necessary when talking for hite calls.

She recalled listening to the story of an emotional wife whose sister called on the other phone were waiting in be answered.

"They want us to give them assurances that their relatives are safe. But we can't do that. All we can tell them is we will relay their information to the embassy and hope for the best," she said.

We need to reconfigure or rethink our respective strategies to the Middle East.
—Vice President Jejomar Binay

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Monica Feria

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Fil-Am docs leave their mark

Named buildings are testament to overseas successes

The UP Medical Alumni Society of America helps channel donations to enhance medical capabilities and support indigent patients in the country, among others

THE NEWLY opened Bunsalit Auditorium at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine (UPCM), one of several privately funded facilities, attests to the successes of many overseas Filipino doctors. This particular project, inside Dean Alberto "Bert" Roxas, was also the happy outcome of a medical drama—a life and death dilemma, an unexpected downpours, and inspiring care and cause effort.

Ed. Nebraskan Bunsalit, a retired 65-million doctor and UPCM alumni (1966), had pledged to donate $200,000 to his alma mater as a gathering of the UP-Siruban Alumni Society in America (UPSAA) in 2007. It was one of the biggest pledges of a single donor and Dean Roxas recalls expressing profuse thanks to the donor, whom he described as a jolly fellow.

But before the affair as the guest lined in Las Vegas was over, Bunsalit suddenly collapsed. He fell unconscious, relates Dean Roxas.

The doctors in the room dropped their wine glasses and rushed to help. One administered directly needed to resuscitate resuscitation. Bunsalit was rushed to a nearby hospital.

The late Virgin-based doctor was in a coma for almost two months, continues Dean Roxas.

THE MAN BEHIND THE NAME Col. Feliciano Bunsalit, a retired US military doctor, suffered a heart attack and financial collapse but went on to fulfill his charitable goals. A little help from his colleagues helped see the project through.

Recovery

But he recovered well. And in December of the same year, barely six months later, he came to the UP Manila campus in the Ermita-Malate district to affirm his pledge and take a look around his old college. He liked the idea of naming a coffee shop-cum-area at the third floor lecture now auditorium. An architect got to work. Bunsalit would run a check for the first half of his donation.

But in 2008, there was an unexpected twist. The US financial markets crashed as a result of a housing mortgage crisis. Bunsalit was among those who lost much of his investment, savings and pension finds. He sadly informed Dean Roxas that he no longer knew how he would complete his project.

It was then that other alumni pitched in to help Bunsalit see his dream come true. The UPCM Merced, California chapter of 93-and-'96 raised more $60,000 to finish the gap, adding two adjacent classrooms. A new elevator was funded by the Sora Trade and Isaac Peral alumni chapters. And Bunsalit himself still raised over $25,000 more to add to his initial donation.

In December 2010, Bunsalit and his wife, Misty, came to Manila to see the ribbon thus finally opened the new auditorium—named the Bunsalit auditorium.

The auditorium is aesthetically decent and named building in the UPCM. The first was Arturo Tanco Hall, a separate structure in front of the college.

Dr. Gregorio Alvior in March '02 had retired from his own successful obstetrics practice in New York and relocated to Manila. There, he looked over the wish list of the UPCM and visited a P30 million church to transform an old pediatric lab into a new faculty conference hall and lounge, complete with restroom and showers.

"I had made enough to retire, and I thought it was time to share what I could," says Alvior, who has since made Bicol touring a full-time concern as head of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) Medical Foundation Inc.

Projects

Where Dr. Olivia Madrid Bernabe (Batch '68), the current president of Upsaan, retired UPCM recently, Dean Roxas was more than happy to show her around. He did his rounds with list of improvements (which he also pours on the UPCM pitch-and-toss).

Named buildings are a relatively new form of raising funds to improve education facilities in the country. Of course, the donors also have to be a bit modest for tradition," he adds.

The alumni associations are an obvious source of support, not just for UP but for many other colleges and universities as well.

Aside from supporting specific infrastructure projects, the Upsaans keeps an endowment account which supports scholarships for poor but deserving medical students, professorial chairs, faculty research grants, free medical awards and database services. Although UPCM and PGH are among their favorite causes, the doctors' group also supports other charity projects and social community programs. It also contributes to emergency relief funds, such as during Typhoon "Ondoy" says Bernabe. There are educational programs on their list as well.

Before proceeding to UPCM, Bernabe joined a medical mission in Pangasinan.

Bernabe had trained and developed her own limited medical practice in Missouri, where she met and married another UPCM alumnus and raised two children (both doctors now). Retired in Florida, she says being active in Upsaan, raising funds and sponsoring their projects, are part of her own "payback pledge."

Even after she completes her term in the organization in June, and passes it on to Dr. Zenaida Gaviola Lai, she expects to remain working in the fund-raising field. "There's just so much that needs to be done," she sighs. *Marites Vitug*

DEAN Alberto Roxas of the UP College of Medicine thanks Dr. Olivia Madrid-Bernabe, president of Upsaan, for the help and support of overseas doctors.

Dial 1343: Actionline against human trafficking

DAVAO: March 10, the Inter-Agency Council against Human Trafficking (Iacat) will open its 1343 actionline against human trafficking, a 24/7 telephone hotline that will respond to emergency or crisis calls from victims of trafficking.

The 1343 hotline can be reached from any point in Metro Manila and is likewise accessible from the provinces using Manila's area code 02, according to a press statement from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), which will handle the actionline.

The telephone line is part of an intensified information campaign dubbed "Labas Iksoys Human Trafficking Dyan against human trafficking."

"We need this hotline because a lot of trafficking victims and their families need an immediate response. We are equipped to respond to their needs and, if necessary, refer their cases to specific government agencies or our non-government organization partners," said CFO chair Imelda Nicolas, who sits in the board as chair of the Advocacy and Communication Committee.

The 1343 hotline is expected to pave the way for easier tracking of victims and their offenders, said Nicolas.

Human trafficking is the act of recruitment, transport, harboring or sale of persons within or across national borders for the purpose of exploiting their labor.

The Philippines is identified in the 2010 US State Department Trafficking Report as a source, transit and destination point of victims of human trafficking, an industry which is estimated to amass $32 billion in revenues annually in the Philippines, human trafficking datasets are through mail-order bride schemes and illegal recruitment.

The hotline is headed by the inter-agency secretary. Other members of the Iacat who are heads of the Labas Iksoys Human Trafficking include the Department of Social Welfare and Development, as cochair, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Labor and Employment, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, bureau of Immigration, Philippine National Police and the Philippine Commission on Women.

For questions and clarifications, please contact Atty. Golda Maria D. Benitez (0928-3035-4988) or Director Eugene G. Gallos (0917-5372-021 of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

Only legitimate wealth qualifies one for US investor's visa

RONALDO arrived in the United States on a visitors visa. He used to be an employee of a prominent and wealthy businessman. After many years of earning profits from illicit activities, Ronaldo left his employers and came to the United States. He had more than a million dollars in cash available for investment.

According to Ronaldo, his family's safety was at risk so he wanted to settle in the United States for good. But after consulting with a lawyer, Ronaldo was informed that even if he had possession of a significant amount of cash, he may still not qualify for an investor's visa.

Thereafter, Ronaldo decided to just purchase real estate properties and returned to the Philippines. He continues to derive rental income from

IMFO
Estrellita Yenko-Tanenco

his properties in the United States occasionally to look into their properties.

2 types of investor's visas

Investor's visas may either be granted temporarily or on a permanent basis. The temporary investor's visa is known as the E2 treaty investor nonimmigrant visa. The sophistication for this E2 visa is not defined in terms of an exact minimum amount. The amount merely requires a "substantial" investment to qualify.

Substantiality depends on the nature of the business. It must be sufficient to ensure the successful operation of the enterprise. The amount of investment for a low-size business enterprise will necessarily be lower than the amount needed for a high-cost enterprise. The E2 investor must hold ownership of at least 50 percent of the business enterprise.

On the other hand, the permanent resident investor's visa, also known as the EB5 or the Employment Creation Category, requires an investment of at least $1,000,000 or $500,000 depending on where the enterprise is located.

No unexplained wealth

Both types of visas allow the investor or his family or their spouse and minor children to reside in the United States. Spouses of E2 visa holders are also entitled to an employment authorization card, while their children may legally study in US schools.

Pertinent regulations are clear on the source of capital. In order for an investor's visa for a Filipino national, a petition for an investor's visa must include proof that the capital used for the investment comes from a lawful source: (1) Philippine business registration records; (2) corporate, partnership and personal tax returns including income, franchise, property (whether real, personal or intangible) or any other tax returns of any kind filed within five years, with any taxing jurisdiction in or outside the United States by or on behalf of the petitioner; (3) evidence identifying any other sources of capital; or (4) certified copies of any judgments or enrollment of all pending governmental civil or criminal actions, governmental administrative proceedings and any private civil actions (pending or otherwise) involving monetary judgments against the petitioner from any court in or outside the United States within the past 15 years.

Just like the case of Ronaldo above, possession of a significant amount of money is not enough. There must be proof that the capital was amassed in a legitimate way. However, it does not necessarily mean that the capital has to be from income earned through employment or business. It can also be shown that the capital was obtained by a loan or was a gift from a family member, an inheritance or even lotto winnings.

Active investments

Obtaining an investor's visa requires the applicant to engage in an active investment, not a passive one. The mere purchase of real estate property will not qualify an individual for an investor's visa. There are countries that do allow passive investments to qualify for such a visa. However, the United States requires an active investment before a visa is approved and issued.

Moreover, only substantially individuals with substantial capital who merely wish to diversify their investments or real estates in the United States with no intention whatsoever to live in the United States, however, for individuals with intentions to seek an investor's visa to permanently live in the United States, having "unexplained wealth" will not be sufficient. The source of the capital has to be documented.

(Tanenco may be reached at lawfirm@tanenco.com or at 02.4077.777.)

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Cop team in kidnap case also 'vanishes'; relieved

By Jaymee T. Gamil and Tina G. Santos

THE MEMBERS of a police team which handled the kidnap-for-ransom case of a Malaysian trader, and is under fire for P12 million in ransom money which allegedly disappeared in their custody, have made themselves scarce, as well.

In a news conference, Manila Police District (MPD) director Chief Supt. Roberto Rosarito said the police team apparently walked out when they were being investigated late Friday afternoon at the MPD General Assignment Section.

The team failed to show up in another investigation yesterday morning, prompting MPD officials to convene Special Investigation Task Group Riviera and alert all units to "look for them and hold them for investigation," Rosarito said in a press conference at MPD headquarters Saturday noon. The men were also not in their homes.

Meanwhile, Makati Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director Nicanor Bartolome ordered the administrative relief of the policemen involved, namely Supt. Police Chief Inspector Rodolfo Mayo Jr., head of the MPD Station 5; Senior Insp. Peter Hervias, chief of the station's substation unit; SPO3 Renato Dovalo, PO3 Jefferson Bonoanlos, PO3 Mike Guggoan Fabian, and PO3 Romeo Jose Ocampo.

But Bartolome ordered that the police cannot be subjected to an immediate dismissal or administrative and/or criminal culpability in connection with the alleged missing P12.1 million, which was supposedly part of the P16.3 million ransom money paid for the release of kidnapped Malaysian businessman Eric Sim Chee Tong.

Tong was abducted on March 9 from his Malabon storehouse. He was released on Monday after paying P16.3 million ransom.

Tong reported the incident to the Manila police station. A team composed of Gamil's men raided the suspects' hotel room in Silverstream Mansion in Pandan where the ransom money, firearms, mobile phones and other evidence were recovered.

The team also arrested eight suspects, including the alleged mastermind identified as Marlon Lopera.

But while the police team alleged they only found P4.2 million of the ransom money on Lopera, Lopera claimed the P16-million ransom was never where his room was raided by police.

The arrested city Mayor Alfredo Lim and Philippine National Police chief Director General Raul Bacalzo to order the transfer of police team pending.

"Whether they are innocent or whether there is evidence against them, they should submit themselves for investigation. We need to clear the police organization and our work from all these doubts," said Task Force Riviera head and MPD deputy director for operations Senior Supt. Fidel Pontillas in Pilipino.

"We also want to send a signal to their fellow policemen that the organization will not condone to questionable behavior," he added.

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4 MMDA men dismissed over road accident

By Tina G. Santos

FOUR employees of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) who figured in a vehicular accident in Mandaluyong City last week while driving a service vehicle under the influence of liquor were ordered dismissed from their job.

Ordered terminated immediately by MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino were Manuel Portugal, Ramon Alegre, Orlando Quintero and Aaron Tejada, all job-order employees with the agency's Metropolitan Social Services Office (MSSO).

Tolentino also ordered the filing of administrative charges against Arturo Vergara, the MMDA driver of the MSSO-issued Dweller Cars Unit (DCU) team whom police earlier arrested for injuring a motorcycle rider.

Tejada will go through criminal proceedings on account of his being a regular employee.

All five have been charged with reckless imprudence resulting in physical injuries and malversation of liquor in connection by before the Mandaluyong City Prosecutor's Office.

"Their actions discredit the Authority, and they should be held accountable. Such acts cannot be tolerated," Tolentino said in a statement.

The incident took place on March 6 at about 10:30 p.m. while the SDCU Team was on its way back to MMDA headquarters in Makati City from the Ann Fabella Center of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Mandaluyong City.

Mandaluyong policemen said the MMDA personnel were on board an MMDA Isu van and were cruising along Carnation, at Road heading towards Nueve de Febrero in Mandaluyong when the vehicle sideswiped Tekton Enterprises Inc., 31.

Police said that instead of stopping and managing the victim to a hospital, the suspects tried to escape. They were arrested after passersby and by members blocked their path.

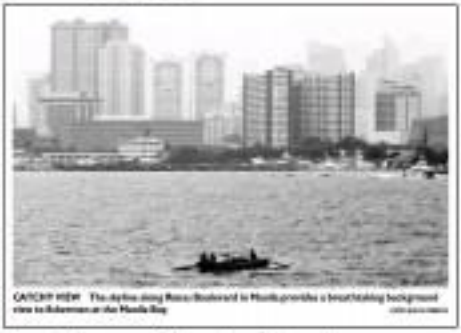
Police added that MMDA employees confident of liquor and even tried to resist arrest.

The MMDA employees were released from detention after posting bail and are due for arraignment for the charges on March 29.

Cycling as transport mode in Marikina pushed

MORE than a treat, in keeping with the city's emerging reputation as the biking capital of the country, Marikina Mayor Del de Guzman has ordered the revival of an ethics that will promote cycling as an alternative means of transportation. The move comes on the heels of a recent initiative to revitalize the city's 52-kilometer bikeways network, which was completed as early as 2007 with a P1.3 million grant from the Global Environment Facility, but was not properly maintained. "We are hoping that this move will benefit not just our residents, but [other] Rizalians as well," the mayor said.

Erwina Fallmon Rangaspas



CAPTION HERE The skyline along Roxas Boulevard in Manila provides a breathtaking background view to fishermen on the Manila Bay.

CHRISTIAN VARNA

Scratch paper usable in QC

SCRATCH paper can be used for other than doodles but for official letters...in Quezon City at least.

The Quezon City Hall will soon use "scratch paper" to its internal communication with no necessarily sacrificing the readability of the letter or text.

The move came after the city council passed a resolution urging all departments and units to reuse paper in printing letter of office memoranda.

The measure authored by councilor Eden Medina mandates City Hall employees to use the back portion of used paper for memoranda and communications provided that the text is still readable.

She said the move can help the city government in its program use and disposal of waste materials used by its office. Aside Mr. Aurelio

Cop in detainee rape case not off the hook

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE QUEZON CITY cop who was accused of raping a female detainee inside a police station will still face administrative charges despite the fiscal's decision to withdraw the criminal charges due had filed.

Chief Supt. Benjardi Mamelo of the Quezon City Police District recently confirmed that the complainant filed an affidavit of desistance in which she said she would not pursue the rape charges anymore.

However, PDI Rodrigo Raya of the Libis police station will still have to answer to administrative charges against him.

Mamelo noted that the woman's affidavit of desistance before the Quezon City prosecutor's office will weaken her testimony in the administrative case.

Mamelo was relieved of his post pending a separate investigation into the woman's accusation that Sanchez was involving in Bapoy's case.

The woman had claimed Sanchez had helped Bapoy escape and that the official allegedly offered her money so she could post bail for the cousin, charges she is facing. Sanchez had denied the allegations.

Bapoy will still be facing the case for grave misconduct in the QCPD's internal administrative investigation.

The policeman went into hiding after the alleged rape incident on the early morning of Feb. 21. The woman alleged that Bapoy raped her inside the Libis police station.

2 robbers die in shoot-out with police

By Jaymee T. Gamil

TWO ROBBERS died in a predawn shoot-out with cops in Sampaloc, Manila, on Saturday, a spot report reaching the Manila Police District (MPD) headquarters disclosed.

The shoot-out occurred when members of the anti-crime unit of the Manila Police District-Station 4 gave chase to the motorcycle-riding tandem after running across their robbery victim on Legarda Boulevard.

The report of case investigator SPO2 Eduardo E. Ita of the homicide section showed that Maureen Ramos, 34, was waiting for a cab in Plaza Ofelia when the two suspects drove by in their motorcycle and held her up at gunpoint with .38-caliber homemade revolvers.

They took off with her shoulder bag, with P1,500 cash in it.

Ramos screamed for help as the robbers' victims at 9 Gumpa corner Andalucia Streets. The robbers refused to surrender and allegedly pointed their guns at the cops. The cops fired and the robbers sustained multiple gunshot wounds all over their bodies, Ita's report said.

Ramos positively identified the bodies as her robbers. Her shoulder bag and cash were recovered.

The robbers, both described to be in their early 30s, remain unidentified.

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Rotary Club media award nominations on

THE SUNNY Club of Manila is calling for nominations of media outfits to their annual journalism awards which features two new categories that recognize praise-worthy works of photographers and community newspapers.

Categories added to the group's journalism awards are the photo journalist of the year and community newspaper of the year, according program chair, former press secretary and ambassador Raul T. Reyes.

Reyes said the selection panel would be encouraged in evaluating entries of community papers since these publications were sometimes hassled by undertakers to serve politicians.

"We don't want to include [those] published by local politicians ... they tend to be partial" in their financiers, Reyes said.

Reyes also announced that the awards would feature once a special citation for reporting among new media, particularly those exhibiting journalistic precepts in their posts "and not in those who dish out gossip."

The University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication Foundation Inc. is helping the Rotary Club with the awards, he said.

Aside from the new categories, the regular awards are newspaper of the year, television and radio stories of the year, for the multinational awards, while individual awards are for the journalist, investigative reporter and opinion writer of the year. The Philippine Daily Inquirer was awarded newspaper of the year in 2010.

Scope of work for nominees is limited to reports either aired or published in print or online from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2010.

Deadline for nominations is on March 16. These may be sent to the Rotary Club of Manila's secretariat, (contact number 527-3651 to 67) or to the UP CMC Foundation.

Focolare Celebrates 45 Years in PH

The Focolare Movement, a worldwide organization present in 182 nations it believes advocating selfless love to foster unity will celebrate its 45 years in the Philippines on March 13, 2011, Sunday.

Thousands of members from Metro Manila and nearby provinces from Central & Northern Luzon, as well as members from the Visayas & Mindanao, will gather at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium or Antipolo for a Mariapolis as the program starts at 2:00pm.

The occasion will also mark the third death anniversary of its founder, Ms. Chiara Lubich.

The celebration at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium will highlight Chiara's message addressed to all members of the vast spiritual family shortly before she died: "Preserve your relationships. Always be charitable".

The program also includes experiences on the Focolare's Economy of Communion, a Focolare initiative to establish business enterprises anchored on communion in spirit-based + real economic paradigm. Part of the businesses profits from these enterprises go to the needy and, more importantly, to fortifying the culture of giving.

One of the highlights of the day is the focus on the life of a teenager, Chiara 'Luce' Badano, a Focolare member who was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican last last September 2010. Her life, and those of many other young members of the Focolare who are considered for beatification, will be presented by the Gen (Gen Generation), the youth arm of the Focolare.

The programme of Focolare gatherings is in the sharing of life experiences on how its members make their activities in order to be expressions of charity that unites.

The Focolare has endeavored on establishing a little town of evangelical witness in Tagaytay. And members, the New City Magazine, Mabini Relief Social Center, Focolare Carpentry and Training Center, among its various outreaches throughout Pampanga.

2 salvage victims found

A GRISLY sight that has recently been plaguing Manila streets was yet again discovered in front of an elementary school before dawn Saturday.

Two unidentified men were found dead, hands wrapped in packaging tape, in front of Economics Elementary School in San Miguel district, Manila.

Probers determined Anthony Pelaez was driving along Nagtahan on St. in Brgy. 668, Zone 67 at 4 a.m. when he spotted the bodies on the pavement.

Thinking the men were just drunk, he went over to investigate and "was shocked to see the victims' hands wrapped in packaging tape," police said.

The two victims' hands and feet were also bound with tape. When the packaging tape was removed, it was revealed that one of the victims had a tag in his mouth and contained a posttery, scrawled on his left chest, police said.

Jaymee T. Gamil

OPEN AUCTION OF PRIME PROPERTIES

MARCH 30, 2011 | HOTEL INTERCON, MAKATI CITY
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 10:00 AM | AUCTION PROPER STARTS AT 11:00 AM

NOW WITH IMPROVED AUCTION GUIDELINES.
SELLER TO SETTLE PROPERTY RELATED EXPENSES OWING AS AT AUCTION DATE.

STARPROPERTIES invites all interested parties to bid the following properties on *"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"* basis:

METRO MANILA

★ COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

SEN-008 MRP : P 10,080,000
COMMERCIAL LOT | MAKATI CITY
Location: No. 8144 E. Rembo, Brgy. Cembo, Makati City
Lot Area: 503 sqm
Remarks: Frontage of 15.00 m along E. Rembo Ave. and corner depth of 31.80 m. across Metro Drug. Approximately 500 m. from EDSA

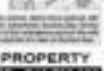
SEN-010 MRP : P17,000,000
COMMERCIAL LOT | MAKATI CITY
Location: E. Jose Street and J. Vargas Ave., Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City
Lot Area: 1,500 sqm
Remarks: Above 120 m. away from Skyway. Has 3rd entrance also in Sub Ave. 2,000 sqm. of Industrial Property

SEN-014 MRP : P9,300,000
COMMERCIAL CONDO | MANILA
Location: The Crown Plaza Condo, Brgy. Ermitawangtawang St., Ermita, Manila
Floor Area: 273 sqm (11 units, 3 Knotes / 130 sqm (13 parking units)
Remarks: Beside the Academy of Manila. About 50 m. from the int. of Taft Ave. & Kalaw Ave.

SEN-020 MRP : P1,300,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | MAKATI CITY
Location: Lot 4 Blk 5 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot. Within the vicinity of Dasmariñas Int. About 500 m. to Int. from Sta. Cruz Bridge

SEN-021 MRP : P7,700,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | MAKATI CITY
Location: Kang National Road, Brgy. Pamplona, Las Piñas City
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: About 200 m. from Skyway. Has 3rd entrance also in Sub Ave. 2,000 sqm. of Industrial Property

SEN-022 MRP : P9,000,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | MAKATI CITY
Location: Lot 1 Blk 1 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot. Within the vicinity of Dasmariñas Int. About 500 m. to Int. from Sta. Cruz Bridge



SEN-023 MRP : P23,730,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | LAS PIÑAS CITY
Location: Lot 1 Blk 1 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot. Within the vicinity of Dasmariñas Int. About 500 m. to Int. from Sta. Cruz Bridge

SEN-024 MRP : P54,000,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | MAKATI CITY
Location: Lot 1 Blk 1 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot. Within the vicinity of Dasmariñas Int. About 500 m. to Int. from Sta. Cruz Bridge

SEN-025 MRP : P23,730,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | LAS PIÑAS CITY
Location: Lot 1 Blk 1 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot. Within the vicinity of Dasmariñas Int. About 500 m. to Int. from Sta. Cruz Bridge

SEN-026 MRP : P54,000,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | MAKATI CITY
Location: Lot 1 Blk 1 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot. Within the vicinity of Dasmariñas Int. About 500 m. to Int. from Sta. Cruz Bridge

SEN-027 MRP : P23,730,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | LAS PIÑAS CITY
Location: Lot 1 Blk 1 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot. Within the vicinity of Dasmariñas Int. About 500 m. to Int. from Sta. Cruz Bridge

SEN-028 MRP : P54,000,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | MAKATI CITY
Location: Lot 1 Blk 1 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot. Within the vicinity of Dasmariñas Int. About 500 m. to Int. from Sta. Cruz Bridge

SEN-029 MRP : P23,730,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | LAS PIÑAS CITY
Location: Lot 1 Blk 1 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
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SEN-030 MRP : P54,000,000
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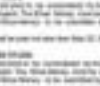

SEN-033 MRP : P23,730,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | LAS PIÑAS CITY
Location: Lot 1 Blk 1 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot. Within the vicinity of Dasmariñas Int. About 500 m. to Int. from Sta. Cruz Bridge

SEN-034 MRP : P54,000,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | MAKATI CITY
Location: Lot 1 Blk 1 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot. Within the vicinity of Dasmariñas Int. About 500 m. to Int. from Sta. Cruz Bridge

SEN-035 MRP : P23,730,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | LAS PIÑAS CITY
Location: Lot 1 Blk 1 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot. Within the vicinity of Dasmariñas Int. About 500 m. to Int. from Sta. Cruz Bridge

SEN-036 MRP : P54,000,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | MAKATI CITY
Location: Lot 1 Blk 1 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
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SEN-037 MRP : P23,730,000
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SEN-039 MRP : P23,730,000
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SEN-040 MRP : P54,000,000
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SEN-042 MRP : P54,000,000
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SEN-043 MRP : P23,730,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | LAS PIÑAS CITY
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Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot. Within the vicinity of Dasmariñas Int. About 500 m. to Int. from Sta. Cruz Bridge

SEN-076 MRP : P54,000,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | MAKATI CITY
Location: Lot 1 Blk 1 Phase 1 Amazon Subd., Brgy. Dasmariñas, Cavite
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot. Within the vicinity of Dasmariñas Int. About 500 m. to Int. from Sta. Cruz Bridge

SEN-077 MRP : P23,730,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT | LAS PIÑAS CITY
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SEN-082 MRP : P54,000,000
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SEN-084 MRP : P54,000,000
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The WORLD

Edita Laverne B. Suico

Gadhafi forces gain momentum, ground

RAS LANUF, LIBYA—Forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi trumpeted their retaking of the rebellious city of Zawiyah near the capital amid pressure toward the country's largest refinery here on Friday, as rebel lines began to crumble before an onslaught of airstrikes, tank and artillery fire and relentless siege.

Plumes of smoke turned clear skies a somber gray after warplanes struck a fuel storage tank at the refinery and fighters set a dozen tires on fire in a futile attempt to provide cover. Bursts trembled through dwindling crowds of fighters that spun were among them, and volleys of antiaircraft fire seemed aimed more at lifting people's flagging spirits than at bringing down the warplanes that sent rebels scurrying for cover behind sand dunes.

The setbacks were the clearest sign yet of the momentum Gadhafi's government has seized as it tries to crush the greatest challenge to his nearly 42 years of idiosyncratic rule. Through fear and intimidation, he has silenced protests in Tripoli, targeted Zawiyah, where the rebels had once delivered the revolt to his doorstep, and brought himself within striking distance of a series of strategic oil towns to eastern Libya.

"We've captured here," said Farid Ibrahim, a lieutenant colonel from Benghazi who defected to the rebel ranks and has tried to coordinate defenses here. "There are no trenches. Do you see any trenches here? This is a wide open space, and anything is possible."

"This isn't an army," he added.

The advances of Gadhafi's forces raised questions of what strategy he might be pursuing to the aftermath of the three-week revolt. Eastern Libya remains tentatively but almost unilaterally in opposition hands, and tens of thousands rushed out for Friday Prayer where a fierce urged patience with the revolt. But with the fall of Ras Lanuf and Zawiyah, Gadhafi is on the verge of retaking installations that refine nearly 90 percent of Libya's oil production, pumped from the largest reserves in Africa.

In the afternoon, the government's move to open a corridor to a marathon operation in Zawiyah, 40 km from the capital. Less than two weeks ago, the city was firmly in rebel hands, and thousands of residents celebrated in the central square, cheered on by the opposition flag and defended by defected soldiers armed with antiaircraft guns.

On Friday, after days of house-to-house searches and attacks with tanks and artillery, the government proved it had at last recaptured the square. Soldiers in unmarked uniforms blocked reporters from leaving the square, but the devastation told its own story.

The apartment buildings and businesses ringing the square were in ruins: broken windows, collapsed walls and balconies, artillery holes everywhere. Mangled street lamps, flattened by tanks, lay across the sidewalk. The armory of the town mosque had been blown in and the top of its minaret knocked off. The speaker for the call to prayer was dangling by a wire, behind it was a tangled heap of burned-out vehicles.

Green and white streamers covered badly damaged buildings where Gadhafi's forces had hastily painted over murals of the rebels' tricolor flag. Bulldozer tracks crossed patches of sandy dirt where rebels had buried some of their dead, and flag-waving supporters of the Libyan leader strolled about.

In interviews, his supporters all offered the same testimony: The Libyan Army had liberated the town from foreign terrorists. Several insisted, despite the evidence, that there had been little or no violence. Those who were said it was too dangerous to talk, and a government minder escorting journalists called the experience "extraterrestrial."

Even in momentum shifted, it was still hard to envision Gadhafi's forces retaking Benghazi or Tobruk, the two largest cities in eastern Libya, which have been under rebel control for more than a week. Rebel fighters and officers said they were digging in for a long battle, and the rebel-held airport in Benghazi was receiving a steady stream of arms shipments.

Rebel officers said they were also preparing for a counteroffensive by Gadhafi's forces in the desert, where they have been pushed back toward the coastal city of Ajdabiya, which is the gateway to Benghazi. Rebel officers said they were also preparing for a counteroffensive by Gadhafi's forces in the desert, where they have been pushed back toward the coastal city of Ajdabiya, which is the gateway to Benghazi.

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WORLDBRIEFS

Yemen police attack antiregime protest; 1 dead

SANAA—Yemen police firing live rounds and tear gas killed one person and wounded eight more on Saturday in a dawn attack on a demonstration in the capital Sanaa, the protest organizers told AFP. Police moved in as protesters who had been camped out in University Square since Feb. 21, they said. One protester was killed and nearly 300 were wounded or affected by the tear gas, said a medical committee set up by the protesters. An AFP correspondent said the security forces attacked demonstrators who had stretched the sit-in to neighboring streets beyond concrete blocks installed by police to demarcate the limit of the protest area. The brutal crackdown came despite Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh's promise in a speech on Thursday that he would protect demonstrators, whether they were for or against his rule. Saleh also pledged to devolve power to parliament through constitutional reforms that would be voted on in a referendum later this year. He either appointed to him to premium offer more than a month of protests, ten months reported by the opposition, while to demand his immediate resignation. AFP

Palestinian kills Israeli settler family

JERUSALEM—Israeli troops were on Saturday hunting for a Palestinian who killed five members of an Israeli family at their West Bank settlement overnight, officials and reports said on Saturday. An Israeli army spokesperson said the Palestinian had broken into the settlement near Nablus in the north of the West Bank and killed five people, but did not elaborate on the victims' identities. A report by the Israeli news website Ynet said the five were stabbed to death in their beds and included a baby girl, two children aged 3 and 11 years old, and their parents. Three other children managed to escape and raise the alarm, Ynet reported. AFP

World's big cities to become even more crowded

CANNES, France—The world's big cities are already bursting at the seams but are set to grow even larger, with experts predicting that some 70 percent of the world's population will be urban by 2050. This will put great strains on infrastructure and the environment, and presents major challenge to city planners, developers and mayors who gathered here this week at Mipim, the world's leading commercial estate event, to look for the best way forward. "Cities can achieve prosperity no longer, have better education outcomes, are more productive," London's mayor Boris Johnson noted, adding that cities are also where people emit less polluting carbon dioxide per capita. AFP

Charles Taylor trial ends, verdict to take months

LEIDSCHENDAM, Netherlands—The war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, once among West Africa's most powerful figures, has ended with judges expected to take months to reach a verdict on whether he over be linked to murders and amputations during Sierra Leone's civil war. Prosecutors had cautioned the judges against being taken in by Taylor, "an intelligent and charismatic man" who portrayed himself during the three-year trial as a statesman and peacemaker rather than a warlord who used a non-state army to pillage a nation. AP

Sunday SPORTS

WHAT'S INSIDE
Bulls zero in on East lead
/A30

(Orbit) Hotsprings of Rain Pipes (front) falls to the ground after getting fouled by Mike Pascua of PC Gilmore during yesterday's PBA D-League opening.

Cobra humbles Maynilad; Pacific Pipes up

By Jeannine M. Paye

THE NCAA agreed on one could host last year vanished against Cobra Energy Drink yesterday.

Ben Lee flirted with a triple-double as the frontmen dumped the San Beda-powered Maynilad Water Response, 79-70, at the start of the PBA D-League Foundation Cup at the MOA Flying V Arena in Pasay.

Lee, the University of the East ace, ended with 26 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds as the frontmen raced to an early 11-12 lead that ballooned to 22 points, 65-43, at the end of the third period.

Maynilad came into the game favored with a lineup composed of the San Beda alums, who captured the 2010 NCAA crown with an 16-game winning streak.

Former Alaska guard Topex Robinson also triumphed in his coaching debut as his Rain or Shine Pipes weathered the PC Gilmore Wheels' late rally for a 79-72 decision in the first game.

The scores:

FIRST GAME

PACIFIC PIPES 79—Ilisay 19, Ildefonso 16, Mangahis 9, Ildefonso 8, Del Rio 8, Cruzada 8, Angeles 6, Jimenez 5, Delgado 1, Tolentino 0, Tolentino 0, Tolentino 0

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GUYITO<space>GUYITO CODE send 4467
eg. GUYITO ABC123 send 4467

(Pre-registration is required.)

Cut and keep the Guyito coupon published daily in the Inquirer.

Promo Mechanics

1. The promo is open to all Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet readers nationwide.
2. Promo period is from January 16 to April 15, 2011.
3. Find the Guyito Wild Hunt coupon which may be found in different sections of the Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet. Each Guyito coupon to be printed daily will have a Guyito code.
4. Participants may submit the Guyito code to earn promo entries via text/SMS.
5. One (1) Guyito Wild Hunt coupon may be found daily on Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet from Monday to Sunday.
6. To register for the promo via SMS, participants need to text the required information to 4467 following the syntax below. They will then receive a confirmation message from Inquirer acknowledging their mobile phone number's registration in the promo.
   Syntax: **GUYITO<space>REG<space>NAME/AGE/GENDER/COMPLETE ADDRESS send 4467**
   Example: **GUYITO REG MARK VARGAS/22/M/Unit 209 Lotus Bldg. San Vicente St., Makati City send 4467**
   Inquirer Confirmation SMS Message/Reply: **"You are now registered to the Guyito Wild Hunt 2011 Promo. You may earn your promo entries by texting GUYITO<space>UNIQUE CODE to 4467. Promo runs from January 16 to April 15, 2011. Per GTI/ACR Permit # 0261 Series of 2011. See print ads for details. Standard text messaging fee of P2.50/text applies."**
7. To earn an entry via SMS/text: Once the participant finds a Guyito coupon in the Inquirer broadsheet, he/she can send in the following information to 4467 in the correct format and sequence as shown below:
   Syntax: **GUYITO<space>GUYITO CODE send 4467**
   Example: **GUYITO ABC123 send 4467**
   Inquirer Confirmation SMS Message/Reply: **"Thank you for sending in your promo raffle entry. Be sure to cut out the Guyito coupon with the corresponding unique code from the Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet and keep it as your proof of entry. Promo runs from January 16 to April 15, 2011. Per GTI/ACR/Permit # 0261 Series of 2011. See print ads for details. Text messaging fee of P2.50/text applies."**
8. All information sent will be kept confidential and will be used solely for the promo/service.
9. Registration to the promo is only once and free of charge. Sending of entry via text/SMS is P2.50/message.
10. If a registered participant/mobile number can only earn up to five (5) entries per unique Guyito code. Any additional attempt at sending an entry using the same code will not be recognized and accepted for the promo.
11. Entries using any of the unique Guyito codes, regardless of publication date of the codes, shall be valid during the entire promo period.
12. Guyito coupons with Guyito codes used to earn raffle entries must be cut out and kept to be shown as proof of purchase in the event that the participant's entry is chosen in the draw. Winners who are not able to present the Guyito coupon with the corresponding code will be disqualified.
13. Draws will be held at 3:00pm on the following dates: 1st Draw on Mar. 1, 2011 and 2nd Draw on March 29, 2011. Grand draw is on April 28, 2011.
14. Entries will be drawn via electronic raffle.
15. The promo raffle prizes are as follows:
   1st Draw (March 1, 2011)
   - Five (5) winners of Php 20,000 each.
   - Two (2) winners of Suzuki Raider J Motorcycle

   2nd Draw (March 29, 2011)
   - Five (5) winners of Php 25,000 each.
   - Two (2) winners of Suzuki Thunder 125 Motorcycle

   Grand Draw (April 28, 2011)
   - One (1) winner of one (1) unit of Mitsubishi Montero Sports GLX 2WD 4x4
   - Five (5) winners of Php 25,000 each.
   - Two (2) winners of Suzuki Skydrive 125 Motorcycle
16. Twenty percent (20%) tax for prizes exceeding P10,000 shall be shouldered by the winners.
17. The 3-year LTO registration, insurance, other accessories will be for the account of the winner.
18. All winners will be notified via registered mail.
19. All non-winning entries will automatically be included in the succeeding draws.
20. A participant can only win once per draw. If a participant's name gets drawn more than once, the prize of higher value will be given.
21. Cut-off date for the 1st draw is on February 15, 2011 at 5:00 pm.
22. Cut-off date for the 2nd draw is on March 15, 2011 at 5:00 pm.
23. Cut-off date for the Grand draw is on April 15, 2011 at 5:00 pm.
24. All draws will be held at the Inquirer Main office (PSI Bldg. 1099 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City) to be facilitated by Inquirer executives in the presence of DTI representatives.
25. The complete list of all winners will be published two (2) weeks after each draw date in the Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet.
26. All winners below eighteen (18) years of age need to have their parents or legal guardian with them to claim their prize. Both the winner and parent/guardian should present valid identification. The latter should also present proof that s/he is the legal guardian of the winner.
27. Prizes are non-transferable /cut cet cannot/like to cash.
28. Winners from Metro Manila may claim their prize at Marketing Department
   Philippine Daily Inquirer 10th FEI Building Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City
   Winners residing outside Metro Manila may claim their prize at the nearest Inquirer Bureau indicated in the registered mail.
29. All winners must present the following to an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative:
   a. Two (2) valid IDs with complete name, picture and correct address. Photocopies of any of the two documents (driver's license, employment/school ID, SSS ID, and/or passport) should be submitted upon claiming of prize.
   b. The registered mail that the Philippine Daily Inquirer will send to the raffle draw winner.
   c. Proxy's valid identification and authorization letter from the winner (if prize is claimed through proxy).
   d. Guyito coupon with the corresponding winning code.
   e. The SIM card where the entry was made:
      i. If the name of the subscriber indicated in the broadsheet coupon and in being the postpaid subscriber is different from the name of the sender of the winning entry of the Promo, the sender of the winning entry of the Promo will be qualified to receive the prize if he submits an affidavit from the postpaid subscriber certifying that the postpaid subscriber has authorized the winner to use his postpaid SIM card to join the Promo and that he waives his right to the prize in favor of the winner.
      ii. If the drawn postpaid SIM card number corresponds to a subscription of a company, then the sender of the winning entry of the Promo will be qualified to receive the prize if he submits an affidavit from the duly authorized representative of the company owning the postpaid SIM card certifying that the company has authorized the sender of the winning entry to join the Promo and that the company is waiving its right to claim the prize won.

IMPORTANT: Failure to submit any of the required proof and documentation is a ground for disqualification.

1. For prepaid subscribers, account should be active and should have been properly documented for all transactions.
2. Smart shall consider the holder of a prepaid SIM card as the owner of the Smart prepaid SIM card.
3. For post-paid subscribers, account should have no outstanding balances on the date of redemption.

30. All prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of registered mail from an Authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative.
31. All unclaimed prizes after the said date shall be forfeited in favor of the Inquirer with prior DTI approval.
32. All employees of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, its sister companies, advertising agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not eligible to join the promo.

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For DTI-NCR Permit No. 0261 Series of 2011
AAC Ref. No.: PDS2AR112161

Orcollo Billiards League main man

I DID not immediately recognize the young gentleman with dark Ze Leon when I bumped into him at Kamayan Nova Avenue the other night.

He was about 5-foot-5, muscular but slight of build.

The other fellow with him was easily identifiable. It was the long-haired Percy Marmion of billiards fame.

Bob received me in just three table

• • •

"You know Dennis Orcollo, of course," he said, referring to the young gentleman, who immediately flashed a wide grin.

"Of course I know Dennis, except that we've not been formally introduced. How could I not know an athlete who got the highest award from the Philippine Sportswriters Association for best team accomplishments."

I knew Dennis was at least five world titles in billiards to [illegible] being a gold medal in the East Asian Games.

"He is one of the world's highest-earning billiards player and the most humble. He earned the tag Robinhood because of his good manners," said Bob, who called Cabal a $20,000 prize money dangled by Perry Mariano, his management could beat the Robinhood.

"He is just a fine young athlete in need of an all-out sponsor push help to send them Manila for the challenge. Nobody took on the challenge."

• • •

Bob said he and Percy were forming a Billiards League (8-League) with Orcollo on top of it all.

"He will be the mainstay. He will provide still-local-inspiring our athletes have to play the game for his favorite very good at."

The venue of the 8-League is the Wack-Wack at Mind Avenue.

Bob said 10 schools in Metro Manila have signed up for the 8-League, which will be launched soon.

• • •

Dennis started playing billiards in his hometown via Bacolod where his two older cousins were also at that young age, he was already playing for money since he had become the breadwinner of the Orcollo family when his father died.

Dennis was only four when his father, a fisherman, got lost at sea. His body was never found.

Although he and his brother tried to earn a living through fishing, Dennis soon found out that playing billiards was more lucrative.

However, he devoted all his time to billiards that he completely neglected his studies.

"I ended up with only a third grade education," admitted Dennis, who plans to go back to school for adult education next year.

"Since baka maimadrasan, pa ako ng pera money ko when I'll turn old," he said.

Dennis was discovered 10 years ago by Percy at Bar-Tenders Billiards Hall of Examiner Road in Quezon City which he owns.

IN HUDDLE

Beth Cabs

SIRIKIT CUP

Ardina bags ladies' crown; PH second

HOTTIE ARDINA used a strong start and a solid finish to fire a 2-under-par 70 and snatch the individual title over world No. 1 Kim Hye-jeon Kim Friday in the $100 Queen Sirikit Cup at the Delta Golf Club in New Delhi, India.

The Filipino settled for second behind South Korea, which cruised to its 36th straight victory in team play, but Ardina grabbed the limelight by finishing with a 54-hole total of 211 to nip the Incheon Win by one stroke for the individual crown.

"I really wanted to win that's why I gave it my best shot," said Ardina, who overcame a three-stroke deficit to beat Korean opponent. "It's just too bad that we fell short of our title drive in team play."

With ICTSI teammate Chihiro Ikeda bouncing back with a 71 after a 76 in the second round, the Philippine closed out with a second straight 1-0 and a -429 total, four shots off Korea's 407-aggregate for the three-day tourney.

Junior Agnis, who counted for the team with a 71 in the second round, had a 74 and didn't count for the squad, while campaigner was sidelined by the Pelatron's Golf association of the Philippines and sponsored by the International Committee Terminal Services, Inc.

Hijo, who ended the field last year in New Zealand and the reigning World Amateur individual champion, finished under pressure and closed with a 76 in the team's 140 output in the final round.

"The girls played very good today. They had some ground and backstroke of playing with the limited distances for the third straight day," said national team coach and ICTSI member Bong Lopez.

"But it was a big win and a big boost for Dottie. I'm sure she'll be relaxing in her next tourney again," said Lopez, whose words also praised the country's first flank at No. 8 in the World Amateurs last year, while reclaiming the honor as in the top ladies amateurs in Southeast Asia.

Ardina, 17, finished the first three holes to catch up with Rye before dropping a shot on No. 4 and hitting back at 14.

ARDINA

Azkals expected in Ulan Bator today

By Cedrik Tapos

THE GRIPPING journey included two train rides and offered the Philippine football team an actual glimpse of the devastation as earthquake and tsunami hit Japan.

The Azkals managed to survive yesterday the transportation woes that furnished signs, arriving in Tokyo just in time to catch their flight to Beijing, where they will take another plane to the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator.

The Azkals were scheduled to arrive in Ulan Bator early this morning, three days before the second leg of their AFC Challenge Cup qualifying duel with Mongolia.

"It was a long journey for the team, but we are happy that the team made it," said Philippine Football Federation president Mariano "Mariongl" Araneta. "Now they need more rest the match."

For which Friday night, the prospects of the Azkals against Ulan Bator on schedule looked dim with roads to Tokyo damaged by the earthquake measured at 8.9 on the Richter Scale and operations at the Narita Airport came to a halt.

Contender, where the Azkals wanted no inclination with Ulan Bator's wild marathon is located in Southern Japan and is a three-hour drive from Tokyo.

The scenario was so serious that Araneta had to cut the possibility of requesting the AFC to move the match to March 16.

But things started to see smiles yesterday and the Azkals left Gotemba early Saturday morning. After a short bus ride, the team took the bullet train to Tokyo then transferred to another train to Narita.

Another teammate, Simon Carmelich, found his United Airlines flight to Tokyo from Houston Friday diverted to Osaka. Carmelich flew to Incheon, South Korea, and will take a flight to Ulan Bator Saturday.

SPORTS HONORS. Mathew Centre CEO and Air Asia-Philippine Partner co-owner Mikee Romero (left) join International Olympic Committee representatives to the Philippine Frank Rhodes, PSC chief Richie Garcia and POC president "Peping" Cojuangco during the recent PSA Awards Night. Romero and co-owner Tony Boy Cojuangco were cited after the Patriots won the first Asean Basketball League title last year.

Patreonbon tries to go all the way in Thailand

JOSON PATREONBON clipped Serbian Hadja Kreim, 7-6 (1-5), 3-6, 6-4, Friday to set up a title duel against an American rival in circuit campaigner Jo Ha Chung (367 junior championships in Kazakhstan, Thailand, Palestine and Uzbekistan) desperate rally by Kreim in the finale. I want to set up a showdown against sixth seed Sean Berman, an American, who is training to become part of the Australian national team. **Marc Anthony Reyes**

Sunday SPORTS

Bulls zero in on East lead

CHICAGO—Derrick Rose came on strong after a slow start to finish with 24 points as the Chicago Bulls beat the Atlanta Hawks 99-78 on Friday to move within half a game of NBA Eastern Conference leader Boston.

The Bulls used a strong third quarter to prevail on a night when Carlos Boozer sat out with a sprained left ankle.

Leading the way was Rose with 10 points in the period as the Bulls outscored Atlanta 24-10 to turn a two-point halftime deficit into a 71-60 lead.

Luol Deng shook off a bruised thigh to add 16 points.

In Philadelphia, Spencer Hawes had 14 points and 16 rebounds as the 76ers surprised the Boston Celtics, 89-86.

Elton Brand scored 14 points for the Sixers, who led by 18 points and outrebounded the Celtics for most of the fourth quarter.

The Celtics missed eight straight baskets over a six-minute span late in the fourth to lose only their eighth conference game of the season.

In Oakland, Golden State used some hot shooting to come from 21 points down and stun Orlando with a 123-122 overtime victory.

Monta Ellis had 39 points and 11 assists while Jarrett Wright scored 32 points for the Warriors, who made a franchise-record 11 3-pointers to highlight a furious second-half push that toppled the Magic in thrilling fashion.

In San Antonio, the Spurs racked up their 11th straight triumph, holding off the Sacramento Kings, 106-103.

Tony Parker scored 27 points and Manu Ginobili had 16 for the Spurs, whose streak dates to 2007, but the Heat's record mark didn't make it easy for the West-best Spurs.

In Newark, New Jersey, Brook Lopez and Jordan Farmar each scored 24 points, combining for all of New Jersey's overtime scoring, and Dan Hicks tallied at least the Los Angeles Clippers, 110-96, in overtime.

The Nets extend a 20-point deficit for a fourth straight win, their longest streak since 2008-09.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS: Season 10, Yuri Bones 10, Dwight 101, Wilfred 84, Fernandez 102, Jazz 101, Sophie 102, Pearce 80

LOS ANGELES Clippers' Blake Griffin (left) goes shoulder to shoulder with New Jersey Nets' Brook Lopez during their game Friday. Griffin's energy and scoring ability have left defenders helplessly recovering on tough fouls lately.

Magna Carta targets 6th straight win

UNBEATEN COLT Magna Carta makes his first-ever race against formidable challengers today in the P3-million Chairman's Cup, highlighting the 27th founding anniversary of the Philippine Racing Commission at the San Lazaro Leisure and Business Park in Carmona, Cavite.

The gray colt is the 2-year-old winner in the 6th 27 PCSO Freedom Cup at the same track. Magna Carta will attempt to stave the path of 2010 Horse of the Year Ito Pogi, whose triumph in last year's Chairman's Cup served as launch pad for a successful Triple Crown campaign.

Co-presented by the Philippine and the Manila Jockey Club, the race program is held in honor of the late former Philippine state Welfare Minister and serves as the grand finale of the six-day festival celebrating the establishment of local horse racing's governing body.

PRC chair lawyer Alfonso "Boy" Reyno Jr. said MJCI is grateful for the support and genuine effort of the Philippines to advance Philippine horse racing.

Expected to hot the switch of the Michael Dingzon Javier-owned and Raymundo Soreon-trained Magna Carta are 12 other 3-year-olds, including Arrowhead, Bubbly Boy, Incinerator, Bold Gael, coupled entries Quezon Bonus and Private Sushi, Chief Joseph, Hi Monty, King Theodore, Platinum Lance, PHIL The Hunk and Sidong Pinoy.

Perpetual nails Shakey's semis

PERPETUAL HELP Laguna pulled off a thrilling 23-20, 20-24 victory over La Salle-Lipa to gain the first semifinal berth in the eighth Shakey's Girls volleyball League at the San Lazaro gym last weekend.

The Perpetual spikers worked on their defense behind Paola de Guzman and veteran Charina and Arianne de Leon to neutralize La Salle-Lipa's smashing game, winning seven of the last eight points in the second set to erase a 16-21 deficit and complete the straight-set victory.

Perpetual will face the winner of the Angeles University Foundation-St. Scholastica's match on March 20 for a spot in the finals of the tournament sponsored by Shakey's and handled by LBC, Toby's Sports, Mikasa, Asics and Metro Sports.

The Shakey's GSL Davao leg ends on the other hand, will be deputed by Ateneo de Davao University and Davao City High school. The winner will book a ticket to the National Championships slated April 6 to 8 at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City.

PKF majority backs GTK

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FIFTEEN of the 22 members of the Philippine Karatedo Federation general assembly and 12 of its 19 executive council directors yesterday reached for Go Teng Kok's presidency during their meeting held at the Ambassador Hotel in Manila.

Go, who is also the president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, said he felt vindicated with the show of support of the members and directors amid accusations by deposed PKF deputy president Joey Romasanta that he was already ousted.

"I believe that we have settled the issue once and for all and that we move on to discuss the progress of the sport," said Go.

But Romasanta said the meeting was "irrelevant" as the Philippine Olympic Committee and Philippine Sports Commission already rejected documents of the Jan. 25 meeting that ousted Go and installed him as successor.

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IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Sweet returns** from baked goodies /B4

■ **Animal theme** parks bring tourists to Subic /B4

Garbage in, briquettes out

Tarlaqueño makes portable shredder to help environment

By Jo Marlowe Clemente
Inquirer Central Luzon

TARLAC CITY—Mounted on a pedicab, an eco-friendly machine designed and crafted by an engineer here can shred biodegradable materials right where the garbage is collected.

The shredded materials can either be used to make charcoal briquettes or for composting into organic fertilizer. The machine can also convert plastic into other reusable items, such as boards and chairs.

Roland Cordoba, a mechanical engineer, has devised a simple but effective way to reduce waste and facilitate recycling.

His frustrations over the slow implementation of Republic Act No. 9003 (Ecological Solid Management Act of 2000), especially the less than successful garbage segregation effort and poor maintenance of materials recovery facilities (MRF), led him to act on his own.

After four years of experiments, his efforts have bore fruit. He completed what he now

GARBAGE, B2

Animal theme parks bring tourists to Subic

Reading the trends of change

LAST FEB. 16, news outlets reported that Borders bookstores had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The bookseller chain planned to shutter 30 percent of its stores, or 200 locations, in the United States. Analysts are doubtful whether the chain-and-mortar Borders will even be able to survive. There's a real possibility for the bookstore to go the way of Circuit City and Linens 'n Things, chains which no longer operate physical retail locations.

A LEADER'S WAY

Jobre C. Maxwell

Ambushed by change

Borders have always been known for providing a comfortable in-store experience with its spacious cafés and wide variety of titles. Unfortunately for Borders, consumer demeanorship shop in person at bookstores. More and more people buy books online or download digital versions e-readers.

Borders was slow to recognize market myopia. When was Borders's bid to begin selling books online in 1997. Borders did not launch e-commerce until 2001. Even when Borders did venture online, it outsourced its web-based business to Amazon.

Before Borders developing Outland experience in Internet sales, Borders contracted a burgeoning source of revenue to an outside vendor, a perplexing decision it did not reverse until six years later. When the Borders appeared on the scene, Barnes & Noble provided Borders to bring the Nook to market in 2007. Again, Borders ended the action, belatedly launching its Kobo in 2009 to relative obscurity.

Why did Borders fail to leap to adjust to the digital age?

As leaders, we must ourselves to what we create, believing so, we're tempted to many ourselves to outdated systems in which we've emotionally invested. When resisting signs pointing themselves, instead of heralding them, we keep our faith in a system that has served us well in the past.

The challenge, not just for Borders, but for all major bookstores, has been to think less in terms of leveraging the third bookstore and more in terms of figuring out the best ways to distribute content to readers. Books-and-mortar businesses has fallen off legacy and risk is going the way of the dinosaur. Instead of trying to protect its position experiences, Borders must grasp the reality that out-of-store business may hold the only hope for its continued existence.

Questions to ponder:

Which systems in your organization did you create? What advantages and disadvantages do those systems have?

How do you anticipate needing to upgrade your systems over the next 5-10 years?

What steps could you take to prevent yourself from being blindsided by the reality of an obsolescent system?

(Raymond A. The John Maxwell Company and Inspire Leadership Consultancy, Inc. Developing The Leader Within You workshop with Maxwell-certified facilitator Arturo Jong on March 20-29 at the John Hay Manpro La Mesa. Call 687-2614, 706-4303 or click here for details. Visit us at www.inspireleaders.com.ph)

5.5M visitors went to freeport in 2010, up 34%

By Robert Gascoigne
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Over a million tourists visit the Freeport each year, not only because of its duty-free shops but also the lure of entertainment, animal theme parks.

John Bay Metropolitan Authority Administrator Armand Arreza says theme parks in the Freeport are driven by staged events and theme parks like the Zoobic Safari, Ocean Adventure and the jungle-themed Survival Training Camp (Jeep).

Arreza says these theme parks provide "indirect attractions for the Freeport."

Robert Wainright, owner of Zoobic Safari, an animal theme park that showcases animals rescued mostly from in zoos, says when we the Freeport is that various can interact with the animals.

We can Zoobic Safari, a 50-hectare facility that opened in 2002, provides visitors various interactions.

These include the Cross Line (where guests can feed crocodiles by dangling a fishing pole with chicken as bait), Hop Hop Bayan (a Walk-in aviary where monitor lizards lurk), Arni's mall, Mangroves, Buffalo World, Savannah (a man-land where guests can see crocodiles, deer, pigs and goats roaming around), Interaction and Zoobic Park.

OCEAN's & & actors: Some of whom, dolphins and sea lions shown.

Wainright says Zoobic Safari alone official to at least half a million visitors a year.

"That's just a ballpark figure. In a good day we can have more than 4,000 visitors. Most of them are students who go on field trips, or tourists [outdoor who visit at least," he says.

Wainright says plans for Zoobic Safari to be conveyed into "more of a children's" is underway, although its main attraction, the tiger safari ride, will remain its biggest attraction.

He says the Association will soon fix complete about P200 million. "But that will also enable us to increase international tourist traffic, which is our target for Expansion. Besides, we also have to add problems mainly domestic tourists," he says.

Aside from its own attractions, Ocean Adventure, a theme park that features whales, dolphins and sea lions shows.

Arni, on the other hand, primarily caters to the corporate market.

The camp features a canvised training class taught by Aetas who helped train members of the United States Navy Seals and special forces units to survive in the jungle when the US Naval Base was operating here.

Barrels from the SBMA tourism department says the freeport received about 5.5 million visitors last year, which was a 33.48 percent increase from the 4.1 million tourists who visited the freeport in 2009.

Tourist arrivals peaked in the months of March (588,777), May (539,596) and June (596,736). Increases was another from month, with 464,525 visitors.

Arreza also attributes the influx of visitors to the diverse events staged by or hosted in cooperation with the SBMA and its investors.

Raul Miranda, SBMA deputy administrator for business, says the SBMA's tourism promotion efforts are in line with the government's thrust to boost connection in the country.

"This way we create more jobs in local communities without losing their unique culture, character, landscape and natural environment," he says.

Subic's place in the tourism industry has been cited by Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim, who described the freeport as "an ideal tourism capital" and a "perfect model of sustainable and quality tourism."

Garbage in, briquettes out

From page B1

rule the "Eco-Glow machine."

Cordoba's idea came upon him as he watched scavengers dig into the garbage dumped on the public market.

Every day, scavengers would look for items they could sell or junk shops, like plastics, bottles and metals.

Vegetable discards, coconut husks and shells, and plastic bags usually make up 60 percent of the garbage heap at the public market, he says.

A garbage truck would haul the pile away unsegregated, Cordoba says.

And since open dumps had been banned under Ra No. 9003, the city's garbage, as well as that of surrounding towns, had to be hauled all the way to the Kalagui, Sto. commercial landfill in Capas in Tarlac province.

To be City and the towns pay huge fees to dump their garbage in Kalagui, Cordoba says.

With these in mind, Cordoba thought that the burning of mixed garbage by trucks could be minimized and become less expensive if the residual 80 percent of the garbage could be segregated at the source before dumped.

He says scavengers will also earn more if they can process recyclables that can be a little more than pocket-size.

From 2002 to 2006, Cordoba designed a machine, conducted experiments and, through trial and error, came up with "Eco-glow" that suited his needs.

He says "eco" stands for ecology while "glow" has been called from his wife's name, Gloria, who has been his lucky charm.

Because the materials used are light, the machine can be mounted on a pedicab, according to Cordoba.

The machine is powered by a 13-hp motorcycle gasoline-fed engine. It can shred at least three tons of mixed biodegradable materials in five to six hours, or two tons of materials in the same time, to a separate compactor, it can pulverize plastic.

If the machine were to be used as dumps, only an estimated 10 percent of residual garbage would be left by garbage collectors, Cordoba says.

He says scavengers can be trained, and later employed, to use the machines.

"This will not only give them added income but, more importantly, decent jobs," he says.

Cordoba has also designed machines that make charcoal briquettes out of shredded coconut shells and husks, as well as plastic bench from pulverized plastics. These bonds can be made into chairs, tables and shelters.

Cordoba says he can fabricate a unit of Eco-glow a week. Each machine is guaranteed to work for five years and may be used by local governments and businesses.

In 2009, Cordoba submitted his project to the Business to Development (BD) Challenge, a annual business plan competition sponsored by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). It gained the distinction of being one of three most outstanding business plans.

It also won a place in the "triple bottom line category" because the project was community-oriented, eco-friendly and economically viable.

THE CORDOBA couple with the Eco-Glow's creative assessment machine that fabricates recycling

Bottling firm's facility gets top rating for environmental efforts

KIMVEE del Rosario-Cruz, the licensed manufacturer and distributor of Coca-Cola in the Philippines, was honored the prestigious "Lakan ng Lawa" Green rating recently by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

It is the highest award given in manufacturing firms that meet environmental standards.

ABC, which is Gold Silver rating recipient, is the only firm from the carbonated soft drink industry to have ever received such recognition to date.

The Lakan ng Lawa awards recognize the innovation of industries. From the sectors, a multitude of disciplines (local government units, industrial and commercial) on solid waste management, particularly air and water pollution.

Recipient organizations are committed to develop innovative, efficient and scalable solutions that reduce environmental impact.

Ratings are color-coded, with blue and green referring to good environmental performances while black and red pertain to inadequate or none at all.

The ABC plant in Antipolo has been meeting the environmental regulations of wastewater disposal and emissions.

As Butch Jison, ABC's vice president of manufacturing/technical services, says, the bottling firm's commitment to engage and explore opportunities has been embedded in the company's blueprint since its inception in 2003.

Green stewardship is something that the company aims to pursue and is affiliated by ABC chair Alfredo M. Yao.

"We have to step up. Unsightly accumulation of unrecyclable plastics is our responsibility not only as businessmen but as citizens. The world is changing and with the effects of global warming starting to trickle, we must all promote innovative thinking and push our efforts in taking care of our planet. It starts with a mindset in the operations of our actions," he says.

Gov't focus turns to 'clean' energy as oil prices spike

By Amy R. Borja

WASHINGTON (IC)—An economic giant like the United States is not immune to the volatility of global crude oil prices.

And while the United States can well support its fuel requirements for now, it has started to embark on building alternative fuel sources and move toward an efficient yet cleaner and more sustainable economy.

Speaking before the recent 2011 National Electricity Summit here, US Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu admitted that the demand for clean power is increasing, the "demand for clean power is the likely future."

Clean power from the so-called renewable energy resources are now largely being harnessed elsewhere, like in Western Europe and in Asia, specifically in China, Taiwan and Japan.

Chu told delegates that the United States should do the same as these countries and reserve more into renewable energy, although there will be risks to harnessing clean energy as compared to the traditional fossil fuels.

Among the challenges the US energy sector will face are the unreliability of renewable energy sources and cybersecurity he said.

Despite these challenges, Chu stressed the importance of turning to clean energy. This will not only help the United States achieve its greenhouse gas reduction goals, it will also help ensure economic development and energy security.

According to an earlier release, the US DOE hopes to raise the contribution of clean energy power to 80 percent by 2035 from 40 percent.

"The United States faces a choice today: Will we lead in innovation and outcompete the rest of the world, or will we fall behind? To lead the world in clean energy, we must act now. We can't afford not to. Through our investments, we are laying the groundwork for the nation's future prosperity and security," Chu had explained.

In fact, the proposed $29.5 billion budget of the DE 2012 for fiscal year 2012 does not only target to put the "nation on the path to reach a bold but achievable goal of generating 80 percent of America's electricity from clean sources by 2035" but also aims to push for the "development and deployment of clean and efficient energy technologies to reduce our dependence on oil, accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and promote economic competitiveness."

In a developing country like the Philippines, its energy concerns are quite largely similar to that of the United States, despite the vast differences in the economic and local landscapes of the two countries.

Being largely dependent on fuel imports, the Philippine government, too, is looking at renewable energy sources such as biomass, geothermal, solar, hydro, ocean energy and wind, to secure the country's energy security in the long run.

"The demand for energy will continue to increase as the country pursues the sustainable development path ... Renewable energy will not only help address this demand but also provide the necessary balance between development and environmental sustainability. The government so far has generated investment commitments of over PhP2 billion for RE projects," said Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras.

Almendras had said that the country would need investors to infuse PhP2.5 billion to fully develop the country's renewable energy sources. Based on the indicative study by prospective project proponents, at least 8,000 megawatts are expected to be generated from such sources between now and 2030.

But the Philippine energy chief admitted that since the country is currently expecting possible power supply shortages this year and onwards, the development of renewable energy sources is a key driver relative to the development of fossil fuel resources such as coal, until such time that the country's power supply has stabilized.

"With these coal-fired plants coming in, the percentage of green generation will drop, it will fall below 30 percent, instead of moving forward in the direction of getting more green or renewable. We're actually falling back, so our percentage is going down," Almendras earlier said.

"So, as a target, we've asked all renewable energy developers to take seriously the challenge since hopefully by 2030, that one stop shop that we have will be solved, then all our generation thereafter should have a larger percentage of renewables so we can regain our percentage. I think we can reasonably hit 60 percent renewable by 2020," he added.

Ideally, Almendras said, the development of local renewable energy sources should already start around 2013 or 2014 so the country would be able to benefit from such sources from 2016 and beyond.

Clean energy ... will not only help the US achieve its environment sustainability goals, it will also help ensure economic development and energy security

GOINGS-ON

Seed fund from CDO

CHT JLAR of Women's Business Council recently received P200,000 in seed donation from CDO. The fund has been earmarked for the Women's Secretariat to be held later this year, a concept officer said. According to CDO president Constein Cheyn-Ong, for every CDO holiday there that was sold last Christmas, CDO would deposit P5 to a seed fund for women's causes.

Toshiba gears up high schools in Laguna

TOSHIBA, a world leader in high technology and diversified manufacturer and marketer of advanced and quality products in several lines, as well as household appliances, recently donated 140 new notebook PCs to 14 public high schools in Laguna as part of its support and commitment for the nationwide program "Sharing Up-to-date Literacy and Access for Students" (Solas) Project of the Ayala Foundation.

The Toshiba-Solas notebook PC handover ceremony was held at the San Pedro Relocation Center-National High School in Landayan, San Pedro, Laguna.

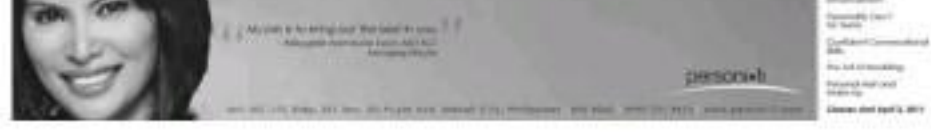
Toshiba had donated a total of 440 notebook PCs since 2007.

Pizza Hut, Taco Bell support feeding program in Mindanao

PIZZA HUT and Taco Bell have collected more than P4.5 million for the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) to support its school feeding program in Mindanao. In November 2010, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell launched their fourth annual Red Hunger Relief campaign in the Philippines.

The 100-restaurant in the country raised funds for WFP's Emergency School Feeding program, which provides nutritious meals to 30,000 elementary school children in conflict-ridden areas of Cotabato and Maguindanao.

The donation, which is 11 percent higher than the sum raised the previous year, was handed over by Pizza Hut executive director Shannon and Philippine Physician, CCE Lars Peterson to WFP country director Stephen Anderson during an event at Pizza Hut SM Molino Center.



Sweet returns from baked goodies

Housewife starts business peddling bar cakes

DELECTABLE yuzon-lime-calamansi Heavenly Grace Cakes. (from) Founder Annabelle T. Lee with her daughter

Text and photos by Crisilvert B. Lee
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Peddling cupcakes and fine cakes was not exactly her idea of business.

It takes a lot of patience and humility to hop in and out of establishments, breathing sweet, cajoling to convince buyers.

But the officials of Annabelle T. Lee, founder of Heavenly Grace Cakes and Pastries, paid off in the end.

Her bob-in-the-wall pastry shop, which she opened in 1999, may be inconspicuous to most. But a closer look at the establishment on Andres Abellana Street, Barangay Guadalupe, reveals a small café with an assortment of baked goodies in various colors and flavors.

On one side is a shelf laden with special bread products, such as cheesy and ube crunch-rools, pastel buns and cream puffs.

"My boss is quite image of customers and prefers to be in different social classes. Most of them buy and eat because we have a very small space here," Annabelle tells the Inquirer.

She says that, after more than 20 years, her pastry business is still "perfectly healthy," having about 400 regular customers and thriving in an unlikely location.

She was pleasantly surprised by her good fortune, Annabelle says.

'Prayer is an ingredient . . . It must be'

Before 1999, Annabelle was a full-time housewife. Her venture into entrepreneurship started when she leafed through the pages of a recipe book.

"I was looking for other things to do, so I scanned the recipe book and snatched a page on durian seafood roll. I bought the ingredients, tried baking and then my late husband, Ruben, tested it," she recalls.

Ruben, who was running the family's electronics business on Mandilli Street in downtown Cebu, liked the food and encouraged her to bake more and sell them.

But Annabelle was hesitant.

"I asked him where I would sell the buns, and he told me to go to some establishments. Then I didn't like the idea. Because pride (Cebu nuisance)," she relates.

In the end, Annabelle gave in to Ruben and she became elated of the business with P1,000 as starting fund.

Lee Choy of Allied Business, a close friend of Annabelle from the Blue Orchids Community, helped the former housewife to establish connections with food establishments.

Choy sells office supplies and took on ledgers to books.

Annabelle told her ordeal early for P10 apiece. Soon, her customers were looking for other tastebuds.

So, she came out with other bite sizes—cookies, caramel, ube tapioca, chocolate muffin, melt-in-the-mouth chocolate bits and sweet buns.

To upgrade her baking skills, Annabelle enrolled in the Cake and Pastry Culinary Arts Studio. Later, she increased her product line to include macaroons and chocolates, carrot banana bars, rocky road choco bars, moist choco bars, dulce walnut bar cake and sweet potato apple bar.

A certified chef, Annabelle graduated with a Business Management degree from the University of San Carlos. She worked for five years in Manila at her uncle's factory. Around that time, she decided to marry Ruben, a longtime acquaintance.

With Ruben, she learned the value of humility, perseverance and hard work.

She had to swallow her pride if she wanted her business to succeed, Annabelle says.

She first used small plastic bags and later upgraded to cupcakes in packing her baked goodies.

Today, her baked sweets come in personalized paper boxes.

She had her share of bad moments.

"There were bad neighbors who would criticize my bar cakes, telling me that they were too expensive," she says.

She was close to giving up, but friends encouraged her. Like Ruben's late husband's employer, who encouraged her to continue the business.

Business was good until May 2004, when she lost her husband.

Ruben died of sepsis after months.

The loss was so painful that Annabelle would cry while she was baking. But her brother Emmanuel Ho, who owns and manages a hardware store in Dumaguete City, helped her to move on.

"My brother convinced me small sale to one general shop in December 2004. Then, he helped me buy the chiller. It was all working out, and God was telling me I have to move on," she says.

With her children and a helper under her care, Annabelle juggled her responsibilities as mother and entrepreneur.

Bulk orders started coming in from big hotels and restaurants. One restaurant asked her to bake cheese sticks and cakes to be served in one of the banquets during the 2006 Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit held in Cebu.

"It was overwhelming. I was feel a small time baker. We were so busy. I didn't think we would be able to deliver all the orders," she recalls.

The greatest lesson she learned from being an entrepreneur was humility. And she continues to thank God for the blessings that continue to come her way, Annabelle says.

"I am thankful for the gift of humility. Prayer is an ingredient. It must be... Anyone who ate the best cakes delicious when I baked the same recipe [as all] the others?" Annabelle says.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Willie's latest buy—Chito Madrigal's Tagaytay property /G1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Sorry I know late but I'm still in traffic, not
Boss I'm already here in the office.

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PALAZZOLO TOWER

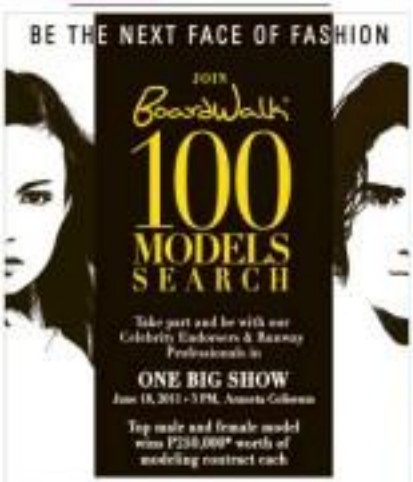
It's a great time to run for a cause

Whether it's for scholarships, family bonding, or victims of injustice, you can get healthy while you help

YOU CAN'T go home again. So much has changed in the area where I grew up. Just in the last decade, Net Boost Serin has metamorphosed from stinky toxic to big bass. BeniSanto (Zobel City) to the new "in" destinations, with weekend markets and yoga sessions and Sunday fun runs.

The evolution is arguably true of the

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Halde



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www.boardwalk.com.ph

INQUIRER runner Dyzito with running friends Lit Ornedo, JV Ralfon, Jun-Jun Ralfon, Inquirer president Sandy Romualdez, Inquirer chair Marixi Rufino, Tessa Valdes, Dinah Editorial and Jose Carpio

Inquirer run sponsor James Tai Sy of Gravity, Sea Princess and host Arnel Ignacio

UNILAB Active Health head Alex S. Pantilo, race director Rio de la Cruz, Sea Princess and Unilab president and CEO Clinton Campos Wee

HAPPY couple Anna and Edmund Exerbo

MARINE and Annie Chua from Team Solaire

It's a great time to run for a cause

Philippine Daily Inquirer, celebrating its 25th anniversary with "25 for 25," a fun run to benefit the Inquirer Newsboy Foundation, the children of the Maguindanao massacre victims, and Gifts and Grants Foundation. Each beneficiary received P25,000.

With so many thousands participating, the Inquirer raised enough to provide scholarships for 72 school-age children of the journalists who were killed in the Maguindanao massacre. Connie Lalagyan of Inquirer Corporate Affairs said that many of these children lost their mothers or fathers, who were the sole breadwinners of their families.

At dawn broke over The Fort's skyscrapers, the Fuget Fort team (tel. 2582550, 9917-8082907) conducted the pre-race stretching to warm up the runners. Yoga is a great supplement to any sport.

The race had four distance categories—5K, 5K, 10K, and a 21K five-man relay. I joined the last category, which was a good tune-up for the upcoming Paris Marathon that I have been training for, alongside running coach Lit Ornedo and my other running buddies.

Race winners got cash and gifts from sponsors, which included co-presenters Kodan and Mizuno, Mizuno shoes, smoothie Solero, Powerade, Vita Milanta Water, Unilab Active Health, Nature Valley Granola and The Coffee Bean's Alex Gonzaga, Rockefeller and Club Asteria came in as refreshers.

Inquirer's beauty columnist Isabel Rocero placed third in the 20 "Women's category.

Congratulations to the team from Hinge Inquirer Publications, headed by dynamic duo Paolo and Bonie Bernardo, who did a spectacular job handling the event. Both, in addition to being a solid triathlete, managed the Inquirer Group's magazines.

Unilab Active Health held its own race the week after. They pulled out all the stops to ensure that Run United 3 2011 would be the biggest family fitness event of the year.

Among the race day surprises and gimmicks were free backpacks with goodies for every finisher after Pastillo, Unilab Active Health head, made sure no participant left the race empty-handed.

Run United 3 was the first leg of the Kenkoy Yhoga 2011. Giants Rio de la Cruz and his team left nothing to chance to make Run United 3 successful. It had four race categories: 100m (for kids), 5K, 10K and 21K. Proceeds of the run went to Gawad Kalinangan.

Unilab Active Health has more events lined up for the year, including Athens MEN ALMinnen's Run on March 19 (www.unilabactivehealth.com).

A treat for the feet

After a race, it's time to rest our feet. For me, that means putting on a pair of Ipanema flip-flops, the Brazilian fashion

HINGE Inquirer Publications' Bonie Bernardez and Sea Princess

INQUIRER Group of Companies at the Inquirer Run with chair Marixi Rufino and president Sandy Romualdez

Slippers distributed by ELRO Corp.

Tapsenea recently launched its stunning Gisele Bundchen Ilet Sands Collection with a sexy and chic fashion show. Style mavens and fashionistas all raved about the new tropical themed collection, available in SM Department Store, Ilustre, and other leading boutiques.

Pulsar Chandler, Elro managing director, welcomed guests with Fragrance Sam, Elro vice president. Pam announced that Tapsenea and Elro's younger cast-brother could get a 10 percent discount on Tapsenea for this launch. The Hot Sands Collection is perfect for summer, whether I'm strolling around Boracay or Boni High.

The Net Group's BPO

Boni High is rapidly being surrounded by skyscrapers. Leading the race in commercial building development is The Net Group.

Tapsenea recently launched real estate developers just launched its BPO building there—appropriately called Net Linea.

Just noticed TV host Amy Austral led the festivities at the event, "Witness the Noticeable Revolutionary Evolution." Economic emotions from chief Mare Aubrey of Champagne and Balcando Lavalloo of Metro Pil spins were complemented by the cadu sounds of Bea Fiamma, the "diva of soul." Fiamma singled the open bar stocked with Chivas Regal, Absolut, Jacob's fine wines, and Gil Mumm's champagnes.

Charlie Ruffino, president of The Net Group, told me that Net Linea's architect is Chad Oppenheim, internationally acclaimed designer of "green" buildings. His works are found fully showcased at www.oppenheim.com, and The Linea will be the country's first project under our canada's most green building rating system, building for Environmental Responsive Design Excellence or Bride. (Did you expect any other acronym?)

Net Linea will be the first tower of the landmark development. The Rhapsody building arose among its given floors will be the use of sun shading and a high-performance glass curtain to minimize solar heat and optimize the use of natural light. All this should make for a great office space in which it is complete of late this year.

The highlight of the evening was Bea singing Katy Perry's "Firework" as the Net Linea crystals and liquids was unveiled, with actual fireworks exploding in the background!

The launch extravaganza made me think about how instrum The Net is getting, and how Net Linea will move that bar even higher.

Truly, you can't go home again. But then, if you live or work in a building done by The Net Group, you may not want to.

E-mail asquirinus@inquirer.com.ph, follow on Twitter @insatiable.

TOGA + Fort's Dinah Salonga, Nice Evangelista, Alice Lorenzo and Ryan Chavez

UNILAB Team Alex S. Pantilo, Claire Pujo, Sea Princess Resort Cruz, Rosalinda Fernandez and Eunice Jalosjos

MET LINA Tower launch

UPGRADING Bonifacio Global City

PRE-RACE stretching by Yoga + Fort for the PBOrian

BEST Joey Wood, singer Bea Zamora and Mike Lima architect of Carl Bonnet

PEOPLE Woods, Tesha Figueroa, Elro brand assistant Cel Mabulas, Tina Ong and Michelle Lim

PHILIP Cel Quijano, Elro marketing supervisor Mike Antonio and Elro managing director Pete Elizalde

MET Group president Charlie Ruffino and chief designer Oppenheim architect Chad Oppenheim

BIANCA Victoria, Kelly Mitra and Grecia Cadenas

SM Megamall branch manager Beverly Barral and assistant brand manager Ramon Balagot

FELIMIE Lim, assistant vice president of SM shoes merchandising

EUGENE Saw, Vice President of SM Department Store ladies, teens and boys group

BPI's Gigi Montinola, BDO's Tessie Sy-Coson, Chinn Ruffino and Citibank's Sanjiv Vohra

SM assistant division merchandise manager Jessica Mirando and senior assistant vice president Ramon Ty

THE NET Group's Raymond Ruffino and Tina Samson, Robbie Delgado and Dr. Anne Ruffino

Hospitality industry stalwarts in one glittering affair

THE HOTEL, Resort and Restaurant Association of Cebu (HRRAC) recently held an elegant induction of officers at the Manila Hall of the Manor Hotel Plaza Hotel. Hans Hauser, the hotel's general manager, is the new HRRAC president.

He has taken over from Bianca Pestaño, general manager of the Pestaño Cebu City Hotel, who had held the post for over seven years. The longest serving, and too young to retire, remained.

"I will always be around to help HRRAC," said Marco in his valedictory. Hans likened the HRRAC to a tapestry woven with ethnics, the Philippine genius (Ilies Iranon for its strength and resistance. HRRAC has contributed a huge way since it was founded by the late Rogelio Daniela, its first president.

Hans also praised Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia for her leadership in overthrow toward developing tourism in Cebu, including tourism, the aspects of the industry. The governor was the evening's guest of honor and inducting officer.

There are four vice presidents, Conchyn Mangallinoraso of Park Lane International Hotel; Mike Alfaño of Shangri-La Mactan Resorts; Gina Ebdima of Cebi Laguna for communications; and Corinne Joseph of Jurassic Rancho (retired) for allied industries.

Treasurer is Jorge Lim of Shangri-Park Hotel, while corporate secretary is Heather Mendoza of the Mactan-Cebu Airport Hotel.

Janice Picornell

HANS Hauser, new HRRAC president, with wife Bo

Board of directors

Comprising the board of directors are the following:

Efren Belsunces of Plantation Bay, Shaffeel Villanueva of the Marriott Hotel; Alfredo Hidalgonia of La Tegola Italian restaurant; Felix Kuhlker of Alegre resort; Rene Osorio, Dean of Hotel and Restaurant Management at the University of Cebu; Michael Pedersen of Reed Village resort; Cesar Soares of Cebu Grand Hotel; Randy Ermita of Bo Hauser; and Jose Ray Gotiza of Kimbo Japanese restaurant.

HRRAC has an executive director in Nena de la Cruz, ably assisted by an office/car staff – Alma Bina, Socorro Pinto and Thelma Cabiso.

Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama was tasked with the inductions of new members into the HRRAC fold. Among them was Peninsula Board Member Agnes Magpale. Cebu province has sent the Hilton to the 2011 combat of bloomings, beneficiaries, Convention and Exhibitions.

The event will be in August, to coincide with various events done in the honor of Governor Garcia. He hosts the 442nd anniversary of Cebu province, the 11th anniversary of Cebu City, and the popular Sinulog-Fiesta replication tours around the cities and municipalities of Cebu.

Jude Bacalso was the evening's program host. He announced the highlights and acknowledged the beautiful music during dinner. Soprano **Ruffa** rendered the piano version, and Reginald Bernaldez **Bernaldez** crooned a classical guitar.

Toasts were made to the continued success of HRRAC by the past presidents present. Among them were **Lulu Alvarez** and **Ruffa Ramos**, Marita Arambulo with husband Raul, Jessica Bello with husband Robert, and Felix Gonzalez. Former Tourism Regional Director Bruce Hoa was asked to join them on the dais.

The ceremony was the keynote during this glittering occasion. Canapes during the cocktail hour were fabulous, as was the menu of the plated dinner. It was impeccably served by a team of liveried waiters. Duets the late great Bobby Irlgard with singers to the juicy club of Angeles band, and on to the pristines served with coffee or tea.

> Canapes during the cocktail hour were fabulous, as was the menu of the plated dinner

Impeccable service

Hudson Sande Hans on this occasion was his wife, Bo Hauser, in a flowing red outfit that enhanced her svelte figure. There was a good representation from the Manor Pelo top echelon, among them resident manager Julie Nejat, food beverage director Stephan Wirpitch, Lara Constantino, Ron Campos, Pit gals Aileen Quijano, Belle Lumapas, Michelle Marriage.

Jimmy Bondoc, seated next to me, always has interesting info about the products he fists. Jacks, distributors. The latest is a plastic lei from Spain. It has the white beans along each wooden blood sausage, cherries flavored with potassium and other condiments. We must try to make it.

HRRAC is very much aware that tourism is the prime engine for growth in Cebu. It does intensive outreach among tourism-related enterprises, associations and government agencies, aligning business strategy for the overall good.

It focuses in depth on well-illustrated tourist between establishments and disciplines to meet the needs of its members. Support is given to executive regarding good governance such as Fire and Life, Safety, Security Institutions, Hygiene, Education and Training, Corporate Social Responsibility and Ethics, New Legislation, and Labor Relations.

HRRAC has for its special mission to obtain new investments in the field of hospitality from abroad, and serves many stakeholders to further enhance Cebu as a travel destination.

Performances, design contest set

THE MANILA Chamber Orchestra Foundation and Ateneo Heritage Library chestra) "Young Artists Series 2011" with a performance by Bohmer Wind on March 27, 7 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Ayala Triangle, Makati. Bohmer is winner of the 2009 National Music Competition for Young Artists. It is the resident of the RTT Lituanian wind ensemble. The regularly-performers at Pasig Park and Concert at the Park. Call 889-9999, 7268748, 8805-0640000, 892 6811 or 0917-551 244 3.

CCP design contest

The Cultural Center of the Philippines invites the Architectural Design Competition for the Bulletin Center and Performing Arts Theater. "The competition is urban conscious" open to all Filipino architects who are qualified registered professional forms to service for the last five years in the country. Filipino architects by July call Jubilado and team up with a building foreign architectural firm. Submit two designs for CCP Artists' Center and the Performing Arts Theater, including the building and landscape designs. Phase I of the competition (prequalification stage) will select four finalists to advance to the Second Stage. Deadline for submission of entries is March 28.

'ZsaZsa Zaturnnah' at CCP

Tanghalang Pilipino's "ZsaZsa Zaturnnah Ze

Musical... Vice Ganda in "Vengaboys!," starring Eula Valdez, Pinky Amador and Gabe Mercado, directed by Chris Millado, is extended March 13 and 19, 3 and 8 p.m. at CCP Little Theater. Call 8323784, 8321881, 8321133 local 1609/1621 or 8510000.

St. Anthony School fundraising for scholars

The St. Anthony School Alumni Association of Saint Anthony School in Sogod, Iseng, Manila will hold "Tagpuan sa Pero/SA Scholars," a fundraising scholarship program on April 1, 8 p.m. midnight at the Mezzanine, World Trade Center, Makati. Nonie Buencamino, Pinoy School president Ianeye Fernando "Bonnie" Pineda have said the proceeds will benefit deserving high-school students. Call Bella Lopez Bautista at 0908-3696010, Joy Tuazon at 0923-402 9286 or Regina Gangcuyco at 0917-5248281.

San Agustin Lenten exhibit

San Agustin Church hosts the 4th Cuaresma Exhibit until March 27, of the Immaculate Conception Province de Jesus, featuring consecrated Lenten images including Belmon, Pangapisan's 300-year old first Cebu, old Santo Entierro of San Agustin, and century-old Mater Dolorosa from the Recoleto Region. Admission is free.

Art competition

Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (Make) National Competition is in search of talented and aspiring painters and sculptors. The competition with an open theme is open to artists 18-35 years old.

For painting, entries to be submitted should either be acrylic on canvas, or watercolor on paper. Sculptures may submit sculptures consisting of resin, fiberglass, glass, metal, wood, stone (concrete), terracotta or stoneware.

Deadline for submission of entries for MEP and Luzon participants is May 9-17 at the Metrobank Foundation Office, 6/F, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati. Provincial participants may submit their entries to the nearest Metrobank branch in their areas on May 3. Winners will receive P200,000 for the grand prize, P150,000 second; and P100,000 third. Call 8988888, local Metrobank branches or www.MBfoundation.org.ph.

Warren's month in Powerbooks

Anvil Publishing and Powerbooks celebrate Women's Month by holding a print book signing on Anvil's latest books only, for and on women. The books are all native stories focused on women readers. The partners will be present to talk about their books and sign copies on March 11, 4 p.m., in Powerbooks Greenbelt 4, Makati.

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD By Frank A. Longo

SPRING FORWARD

source on page P2

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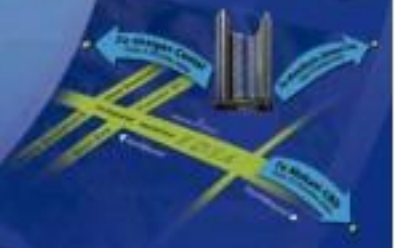

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FEDERAL LAND

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Father and sons retrace their roots in San Miguel, Bulacan

In this town full of history, adventure trails and famous delicacies, my sons visited their grandfather's ancestral home for the first time

MAIN entrance of the ancestral home.

By Carlo Inton Viola
Contributor

OUR TRAVEL team comprised of me and two of my sons, Francis and Matthew. The night before our trip, we prepared one backpack each containing enough drinking water and sandwiches for three and a Sun Fransisco Police Department-issue Maglite, in a separate bag: extra T-shirts, light shorts and sandals.

From the NLEX, we took the Sta. Rita exit, then veered off to an unmarked bypass road circumventing Poblacion town's hills. We proceeded through the Bulacan towns of Baliwag, San Rafael (famous for its salted duck eggs and balut), San Ildefonso (good fry batsic) and finally San Miguel—the last town of Bulacan before Nueva Ecija.

Not to be confused with the host, San Miguel was initially part of Pampanga, named San Miguel de Mayumo after its first town mayor, Miguel Pineda, and its holy patron the Archangel Michael. Mayumo, a Kapampangan word meaning "sweet," was added for flavor.

Latticework wrapping

San Miguel is famous among travelers on the Bulacan-Cagayan Valley route for its sweet delicacy, the panellet de leche (milk pastries). In the '60s, these sweet delights were carefully wrapped in thin Chinese colored paper, whose ends were intricately cut in latticework designs.

San Miguel's other famous delicacy is its chicharon. These treats are home-cooked in the town's small cari-cari stores or in homes. A local entrepreneur made that into a flourishing business, and has pioneered San Miguel's best under the "Inville's Sweets" label.

A few old wooden ancestral houses—the famous bahay na bato—still stand in San Miguel's town proper. These Victorian-era-inspired dwellings depict the opulent lifestyle of the residents. Today, these houses are empty, grounded only by caretakers.

Francis and Matthew visited their grandfather's ancestral home for the first time, along Vida Street, beside the main bridge and town river. The street was named after Mariano Vida, a close friend of Dr. Jose Rizal, who financed the printing of the "Noli Me Tangere." The wooden panels and gaping hardwood floors are still intact, untouched by time, decades of heat, rain and dust.

After touring the house, we headed east, taking the road parallel to the old cemetery. The view was a relief from the town's sur-

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Father and sons retrace their roots in San Miguel, Bulacan

From page B1

row roads congested with tricycles. The sun rice fields occupying both sides of the road were a sight to enjoy.

The road ended in the Bukas na Kuta Park. An entrance fee is required in the park office. Special arrangements for official guides are available.

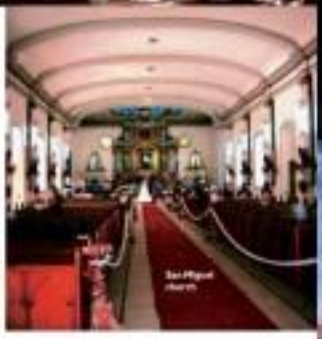
Bukas na Kuta is more popularly known in Philippine history as the place where revolutionaries Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and Pedro Paterno, with the members of the Biakonian, established the short-lived republic of the same name, complete with a constitution and a set of officers.

Bukas na Kuta (literally "bukas kota-moro") is part of the Sierra Madre Mountain range. It is heavily forested and houses several caves, with a river cutting through some of them. The river begins in Calumpit and ends in Pampanga's Candaba marshlands. Declared a national park in 1937 by President Manuel Quezon, Bukas na Kuta's 2,117 hectares of hidden beauty awaits leisure visitors and nature's adventurers.

Located in the easternmost section of San Miguel, Bulacan, Bukas na Kuta's highest peak rises to over 1,000 meters above sea level. Perched mostly with limestone, Bukas na Kuta also features its marble, attracting quarry connoisseurs that have already defaced parts of its facade and adjacent landscape.

The ancestral home

BLESSED Sacrament



San Miguel church

We followed our guide down the main trail beside the river bank. Several concrete tables and benches are installed along the river bed's sides, where picnickers can set up but rest from bathing in the cool and clear running water.

To the Bat Cave

We reached the Bahay Waski or Bat Cave. Entry is through a large crevice, leading down to a huge chamber. The river passes through its high-roofed openings on both ends. Thousands of bats hang on its ceiling.

We exited the cave through the same entry point. We then continued the river via the hanging bridge toward another massive limestone cave that led to a camp ground. While we took a few minutes' rest, our guide prepared a special lantern to light our way in the cool cave, named Cave 3. The very bridge was also through a gaping hole on the ground.

Inside, though, this cave was smaller and darker, with no rich limestone relics than the entrance-way, and a very slippery mud trail. Our guide lit his lamp and led the way, while I positioned myself in the rear, lighting the other half of our track.

We saw a couple of shoe soles on the trail, and wondered why they were there. Cave 3 was minutes, we realized why. The mud was making the soles off our shoes.

We then reached a large chamber with stalactites and stalagmites. If one talks loudly, an echo bounces back from the chamber.

Before heading back to town, we visited the old cemetery where my paternal grandmother and her children were laid to rest. The boys were amazed to see the crowded tombs of different designs, standing on or above ground level, some are on top of the others.

We closed the tour of the cemetery with prayer and paid homage.

As with most old towns, one can find the San Miguel de Arcangel parish church in the center of town, facing the town hall. Both structures are built of stone and red bricks likely imported from the neighboring province of Apalit, Pampanga. We said a prayer of thanksgiving and for a safe journey home.

The town of San Miguel has a few other significant places worth exploring. The local government and residents should help preserve these areas, with careful environmental considerations, to orchestrate more visitor-wanting to know about the town's forgotten role in Philippine history.

INSET of the ancestral home

San Miguel Church façade

CAVE 3 with stream

STREAM

DAO tree

CAVE 2

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Redundant, inefficient, cumbersome, useless– why our airport procedures don't lead to real security

LACE red and white float

CASINO Silinawan Of Adventure paradise with actress Pia Wurtzbach

LACE red and white float

Panagbenga goes back to its roots

Text and photos by Rocio Ilee Uy

WHEELS TURNED on the last day with various floral floats in representation of Baguio's Panagbenga Festival, in celebration of its 20th year.

Organizers usually end the festivities with a grand parade of floats, but this year, they decided not to sponsor it again. "We had to take out the commercialism," Irene said.

To solve this participants from cheerleaders to dancers, underwent training. Entrance subsidy was also increased from P50,000 to P80,000.

"There are still some issues that we have to fix by next year so we'll be able to come out better," said Bangayan. "We would like to go high, and maybe encourage more entrants from regions to join, as long as they conform to the Carnillian theme."

Repercussional

The entire parade was in full bloom. However, from glamorous flowers in today's brands and flowers in vials and plants, some compromised. Anything that could be used "flowered" was—Igorot costumes were embellished with blooming headdresses (if the fabric itself wasn't floral to begin with), jeans were wrapped in vines, shoes were laced with flowers.

But the highlight, as always, was the dress. Over 20 participants travelled from rainwood with flowers and brought living dresses to the city.

Among which featured a giant bunny held up by people for a few minutes to give way to the four corners of rainforest. Jean Hilley and Ariel Manuel.

Double Crown sculpted a large flowery boat of their ancestors. Among contender JDC which could potentially join Cherishing and Baguio Country Club in the Hall of Fame, had a flower dress with skirts, while TVI and the Iron flowers, padding only their legs with red and white roses.

But perhaps most attention-grabbing was Casino Silinawan over DO's entrance. Their float turned heads with its live drum band, large entourage and a stroll inspired by the Ati-atihan "dream."

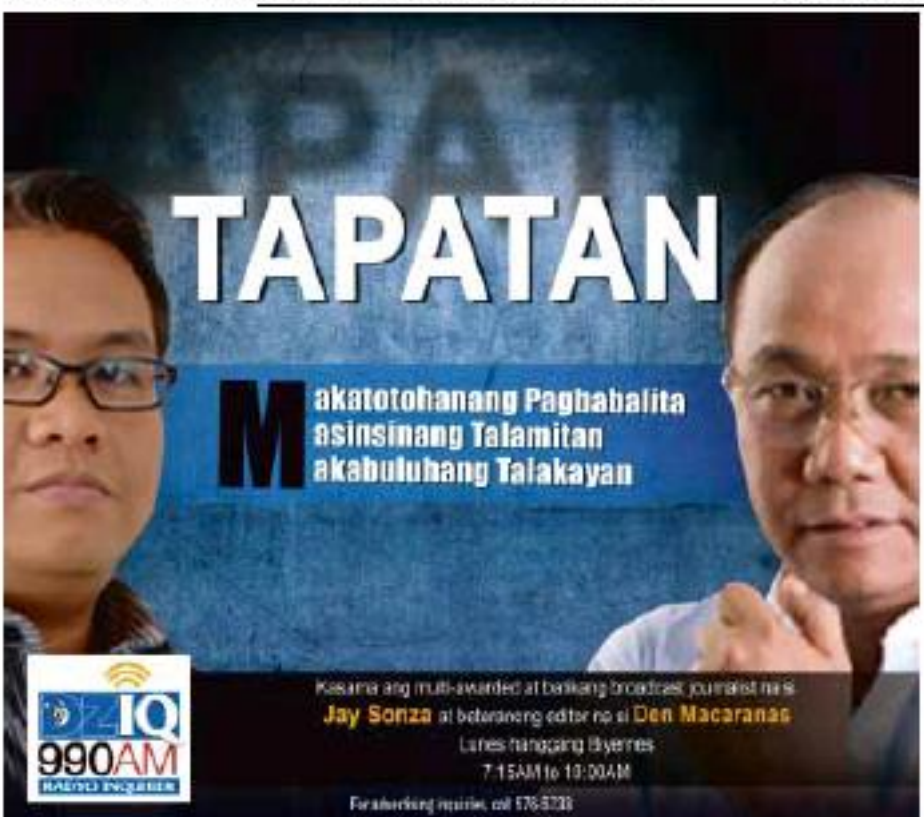
DUMDIM Dancers dressed up as gumdrops

JEAN Hilley shaking up the Sarangay Bank in the middle of the parade.

A band around typical of...hers," including a mobile Think a Drum maker, aerial acrobats along with colorful characters. However the biggest surprise was yet to come. From amid the glorious floats across sprang a small image of the Sto. Niño. The crowd cheered with a mix of amusement, confusion and disbelief.

Interviews with each motion display the organizers were generally pleased with the outcome. Panagbenga chair Andrew de Leon said the competitors is definitely tighter compared to before.

"What also improved was the presence of more crowds and bands. An additional element, ally adds to the excitement,"



Printed and distributed by Newsquest Chronicle
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011

THRIVING divers and single swimmers are very at home under the Plaza Fortuna Sandbar

$5,000 to Barangay community also joined the contest parade

BETRAYED Lawsuits: 1.5 million.

...ter succumbing to ...mmercialism in ...e last few years, ...gnito's flagship ...stival finally ...overlooks entire ...owers and culture ...an logos

MAGIC Lovey Rubio enchants the crowd at Bacolod's Masskara Festival

...Singapore.

...tourism, Bersekan ...d SH

...Tan Sangkenga is only one ...Angeles's attempts to ramp up ...tourism. This year's Nanay... ...ga actually generated a ...t 1.1 million tourists ...ed on bus and hotel book... ...ted Angeles. In the next...

...ated Tourism Capital of the ...ccessary step will have their fair ...ghare of green tourism opportu... ...ourism to remove Angeles's old ...gma.

Previously SM Angeles launched Masskara Park at the Department of Tourism's list of tourist spots. While the only SM-owned mall ca... ...ondominium, is in Iloilo' area...

...ng. It is the city government's ...enables to mention the local tribal... ...ractions, like the Sinot Centre in Bambanan and new provincial ...ism like cave hopping locations.

"SM made an effort not to ...ompete a lot with Robinsons's and ...hardcore," said Angeles's official, ...ntly Rodriguez. "We should develop ...ourist connections that are dis... ...tinctly Angeles."

But for Tan Manuel's manag... ...ing director Melanie Macalinao, ...it's not simply about never losi... ...again. As a place where sales ...ounters in consultancy forever and ...ampoonists can rewind up to six ...illion euros. "Angeles is the ...reatest destination," said the ...Cebuano national, who has lived ...in the city for 10 years.

Travel Briefs

Hennann Resort Alona Beach opens in Bohol

MAGIC rolls at Hennann Resort have a whirlpool, air-conditioned dresser and ceiling fan, ...remote-controlled cable, LCD TV with radio, telephone and direct dial

HIGH TIDE scenes, guests and colorful boats are what's best

...ure from 7:30-8:15 a.m., still at Hong Kong to Clark flights are from 8:40-11:45 a.m.

Starting April 10, Cebu Pacific flights ...ebu daily to Hong Kong (from Clark ...with no additional daily flights from Clark to Hong Kong from 7:30-8:15 a.m. and Hong Kong to Clark from 10:20 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.

Hong Kong is known forseen as a ...strong hypermarket and as one of the ...most important financial centers in Asia. Two shopping grounds are Tsim Sha Tsui (home to the Nathan Road Harbour City and Canton Road, the largest ...strong hypermarket in Hong Kong, and the Tsuen Kwan Mall Market in the city's Tsuen Kwan suburb.

"This is a new British colony. It also ...ers a unique cultural combination for each of ...ers a guide and shows travelers how to ...e Perth, Hong Kong Disneyland, ...Ocean Park, Hong Kong Wine Festival, ...and Macau Tower," Hong Kong's oldest ...and most famous casino and the Floor ...Macau.

This March, Hong Kong's city is filling ...

...the annual Hong Kong Flower Show at ...Victoria Park.

In April, the city will celebrate the ...Tin Hau Festival, in honor of the birthday ...of the Chinese goddess of the sea. Tin Hau, to be held at the Hong Kong ...of Building, and the seaside village of ...Joss House, Aberdeen, live dances ...and selling of goldy-themed souvenirs ...pass or for tournament Chinese chess ...at Victoria Bay.

Cebu Pacific is daily and flies to ...Incheon from Singapore. ...Manila's Ninoy Aquino International ...for bookings, call 8802100.

Megaworld Lifestyle Centers present

Green Summer Passion and the 100 Days of Healthy Eating

Time to blow off the dust from the sunscreen ...the blue and blue cut, the beach short, throw ...your life on a whirlwind. Summer's here ...again and there's no excluding your friend ...plans to live beachy lifestyle and relive the ...glorious experiences. But before we introduce ...to a hot with the exclusive that will ... you're ...not bikini-ready just yet.

...A week-slim-and-shred training isn't for you. ...Green Summer Passion might just be your ...best friend this season! Stick to beachy style ...with the 100 Days to Healthy Eating. It can ...open up to exciting and nutritious, nourishing ...couldn't be so pubbed! What perfect way to ...treat yourself and still be able to have those ...delights. You deserve to leave yourself to enjoy ...this beachy season!

During which may never have been an ...option, but with more than enough variety you ...won't forget. Brand new curated ...

You're free to choose a different meal every ...day. The dishes or beloved chefs have ...carefully created over 100 meals to help ...maintain those values. It's impossible to get ...bored during season! For ANY energy of ...here, you can bet these meals are a delight ...to the palate.

Tap into the rich seasons or seasoned chefs ...and world-class restaurants across ...Eastwood City, Venice Piazza in Bonifacio ...Hill and Burgos Circle at Bonifacio Town ...Center both in Fort Bonifacio, and Newport ...City in Resorts World Manila. The Metro's ...hottest spots are going, so after that is best ...to relax...

From March 3 to June 11, the Megaworld ...Lifestyle Centers have cooked up the ...perfect treat for the health-conscious and ...the aspiring health-conscious.

Post feedback with us for any enquiry ...at 756-8855, 756-8988, 8317-8888 ext ...

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Newport Mall:
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100 DAYS OF HEALTHY EATING

Experience gastronomic delights with over 150 chef-created healthful meals during the 100 Days of Healthy Eating from March 3 to June 11

EASTWOOD MALL
BURGOS CIRCLE at Bonifacio Town Center
Newport Mall at Resorts World
VENICE PIAZZA at Bonifacio High Street

Redundant, inefficient, cumbersome, useless—why our airport procedures don't lead to real security

It is not the processes that need strengthening, rather the management of our civil aviation systems

By Antonio A. Oposa and Anna S. Oposa
Contributors

This letter, edited for lack of space, was sent by the authors to Atty. Angel A. Honrado, General Manager, Manila International Airport Authority. Authors' e-mails: a.oposa@gmail.com; amoposa@gmail.com

X-RAY machine for checkpoint at the airport entrance

(ONG passenger queue

IMMIGRATION sellers

AFTER paying the terminal fee, we anticipated seeing an operation like an Inspector Gordon, who will detach the cash from the terminal fee coupon.

WE ARE staunch advocates of local tourism. We strongly believe unpromising eco-tourism is a good driver of sustainable economic development. If there is anything we Filipinos can be proud of, it is the unparalleled physical beauty of our country, and the inner beauty of our people.

But those of us who travel extensively know how exasperating, inefficient and oppressive our travel systems are, particularly our airports and seaports.

Take the case of the gateways of the country: our airports. There has been a marked improvement in the physical facilities of our airports, for which we congratulate those responsible for them. However, there is so much that needs to be done to upgrade our services and make our airports truly world-class.

We invite your attention to the ordeal-like process of checking in and out of our airports...the first and last step of all local and international travelers. The objective of a good airport is to make travel procedures as seamless and efficient as possible. Instead, ours have become perfect examples of bureaucracy, inefficiency and what airport systems should NOT be.

'Checkpoint mentality'

Indeed, it is also an example of the 'checkpoint mentality' of our government.

Some:

1. There are security guards who pretend to conduct a cursory check on the entering cars. They wave their flashlights at the direction of the glove compartment and pretend to look inside the trunk. In reality, they only want the sight of the passenger and create a partition mentality.

2. In the entry doors of the airport, there is another guard who checks the tickets and ID. At this point begins unnecessary waiting lines.

3. There is an X-ray at the main door. While there are often a number of X-ray machines, only one or two are open, thus creating another unintended queue and further delay.

4. At the Main-3, yet another guard checks the ticket and ID before the check-in counter.

5. After checking in, we proceed to another line to pay an outdated fee in the form of "terminal fee."

In all our travels around the world, we notice that only the Philippine airports collect a terminal fee. If we are so impoverished and need collect this terminal fee, can we not incorporate it in the price of the ticket? This would considerably ease the flow and movement of passengers in our airports. Instead, there are airline companies and the Bureau of Internal Revenue who are better placed to do the collection and remittances of huge amounts of funds.

But that is not all. After paying this senseless terminal fee, we proceed to line up again for another X-ray machine. The inspector verifies, who sells us off the stub from the receipt of the terminal fee. This is especially true at Naia 3 and Mactan-Cebu International Airport.

6. There, after this, there is another X-ray machine. Compared to other airports in the world, ours is the only X-ray machine that checks hand-carried baggage. Even in security-conscious US, there is only one X-ray check, and that is right before the gate-designated area.

7. Then the final check right before boarding. This can be reduced to only three major check-in, X-ray and body check before entering the gate designated area, and then at final boarding. This is the standard used by most airports.

Additional checkpoints

However, the process for international travel at the Naia and NAIA Centennial Airports is even worse because of the additional checkpoints:

1. Checking of boarding pass before entry into immigration area;

2. Payment of the exorbitant terminal fee of P750, or something like $15.00, as if people walk around with that exact change in their pockets. Worse, one cannot even pay with a credit card;

3. Immigration;

4. Checking of boarding pass before being allowed to enter the pre-departure area;

5. Another check of baggage before boarding.

At the international arrival area, even if we have nothing to declare, we are required to pass a lane, who is checked by a customs officer. Part of the stub is then taken by another customs officer.

Also, ours is the only airport that still checks on the baggage—contrary to most security practices of the world.

Most of these procedures are not only cumbersome and downright stupid, they also create an impression that we are just putting hoops to make it difficult for tourists. The only ironic meaningful job for an employed panoply of policemen or bureaucrats who have nothing better to do. This is a source of people's hard-earned money.

We request that your good office take the initiative in review and streamline this process. These cumbersome and superfluous procedures have no made our airport and air travel anything but secure. Instead, they only create more inefficiency. In this point, our airports have been downgraded for their lack of security.

Disturbing news

It is not the processes that need strengthening, rather the management of our civil aviation systems. In the news recently was a disturbing piece of information. There was damage in some aviation equipment, and the explanation given had to be "contribution" or removal from existing, likewise damaged aviation equipment.

One must ask: Where is all the money collected from the terminal fees going? Is there a need to paying the security guards and personnel placed in our airports to make our lives and travel difficult?

In almost all of the airports of the world, there is no "terminal fee" collected; if there is, it is usually incorporated in the ticket.

In this respect, may we respectfully request for a financial report from your good office as to the uses of the terminal fee collected from passengers in the last five years, despite all the improvements, as of January 2011, none of the three airports in Manila had free and reasonable wireless Internet access.

The pre-departure area at Main 1 did not even have working elevators or escalators. The restrooms are very small and badly maintained. The Mactan-Cebu airport, meanwhile, recently installed sensor-type flushing mechanisms in their water closets, a water-sanitized bidet-type bidet, which just last Jan. 22, none of them worked!

He also do not have seats allocated for the handicapped in pre-departure areas. In other international airports, there are seats near the gates for the handicapped.

Overacting

While other airports around the world try to institutionalize seamless airport procedures, we are overacting to try to create a semblance of security. This is not a mark of our ability to put in place effective security measures. Rather, it is a mark of idiotic redundancy, utter inefficiency and useless red tape.

We end up making ourselves look ridiculous. It creates the impression that we live in a paranoid state, paranoid to the nth degree, and/or are promoting unnecessary red tape right to the gateways.

It is a poor reflection on our people. It is also downright sad. It is very Third World mentality—the very impression we are trying to change as a country and as a people.

Our airport officials know how utterly ridiculous these procedures are, but refuse to improve them for reasons known only to them.

There are so many other things we need to improve to make our country travel-friendly among those having direct impact on our tourism industry and possibly decongestion. But if there is one area we can start on right away to make travel to and within the Philippines easy, convenient, passenger-friendly and considerate, it is our airports—the very first set of our beautiful and beloved country.

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IN THIS ISSUE
■ Amparito Lhuillier ahead of Mandy Moore /G1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Forever 21 to open in Makati

THE BUZZ is that the popular brand Forever 21 will open at SM Makati.

Hands down, this is a winner brand, judging from how it has been consistently drawing shoppers since this global affordable brand opened at Megamall. Its huge space is always filled with shoppers who riot across aisles and markets. Its come-one get no-only lines, budget-friendly price points—and, definitely, its wide-range accessories.

Its opening in Makati, it is said, comes with the design-enhancement of SM Makati, which is getting known for its fashion-forward merchandise like Fashion Forum.

AFTER the storytelling, children would flock to Gcina for her autograph.

She can make everybody love a good story

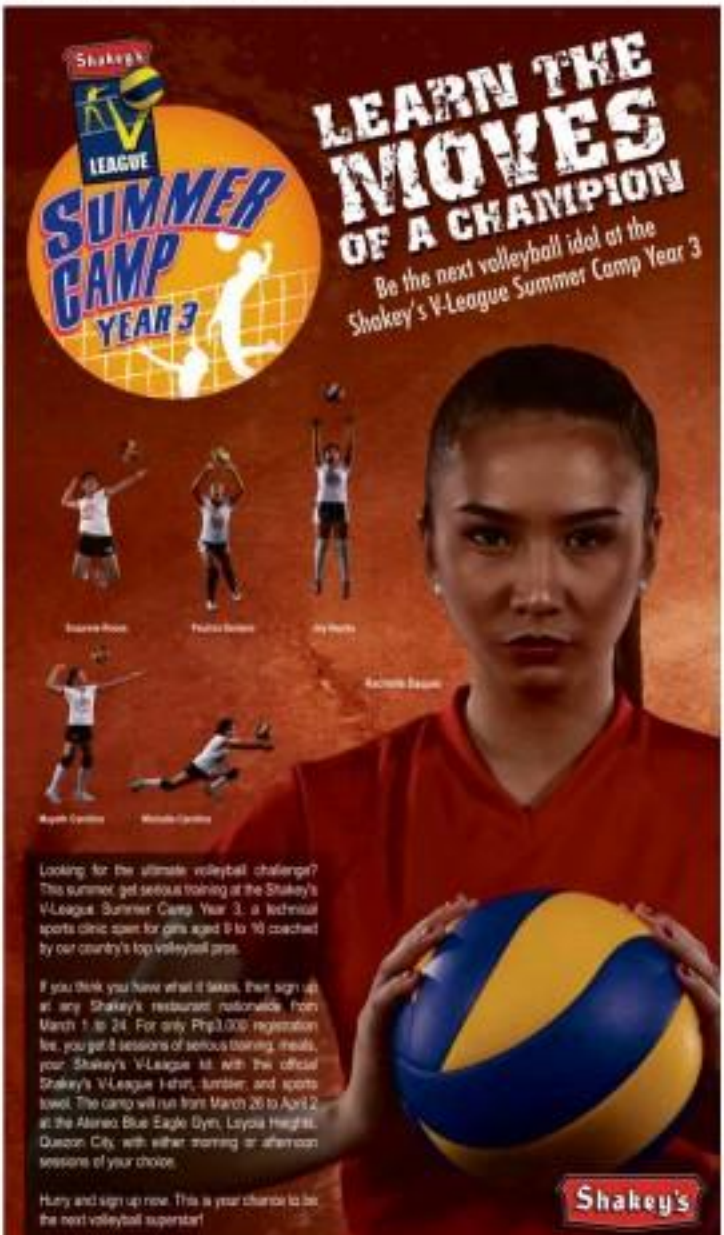
Gcina Mhlophe Becker, South Africa's foremost storyteller, captivates a mall crowd, shares her life experiences—and has enough energy left to go shopping

By Sasha Lim Uy

GCINA MHLOPHE Becker looks like the traditional African woman. Her skin is the color of rich coffee, her hair in tight braids. She wore a long skirt and colorful beads, and had a deep, melodious voice.

On her left wrist, however, dangled a Chantel watch—a hint of the success she has achieved over the years.

It might be difficult to believe that storytelling could be a successful, even lucrative, career, but Gcina [illegible] to South Africa's foremost storytellers. Multi-awarded in television, theater and literature, her



March 19 is feast of St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Barcarse

WE CELEBRATE the feast of St. Joseph on March 19 by attending festivals—the Sinulog of Cebu on the third Sunday of January, the Ati-atihan on the Sunday after Jan. 15, or, as a pair, the March 19, the procession before the 6 p.m. Mass.

I remember Dr. Daisy Trinidad Reyes, president of the Friends of St. Joseph, telling me of his commitment to recruit the subjects of St. Joseph at the Hospicio de San Jose every year.

My friend Nelle Hana sets up the palisao before the tableau of St. Joseph dying in the arms of Jesus and Mary from 5 p.m. on afternoon. Held in the garage of his house, the palisao attracts friends and families.

San Jose, Batangas

At the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Joseph in San Jose, Batangas, the Knights of St. Joseph are bringing the image to the different barangay chapels during the whole month of March. Rector and parish priest Fr. Ed Castandog, CSJ, is leading in the celebration. Fiesta Misa is at 9:30 a.m.

Fr. Ed told me that the Seven Joys and Sorrows of St. Joseph are carved in stone in the courtyard in front of the century-old shrine. I encourage readers to visit the shrine and marvel at the beautiful old image of St. Joseph up in the altar.

In a visit years ago with Tita Sicsay Salido who brought me there, I knelt in front of the image and prayed very hard. My prayers were answered.

ST. JOSEPH, patron of the Universal Church

St. Joseph in Cabalantian

Mt. Hermbo erupted in 1991, but it was only in 1998 that labor flowed into Barrio Hermpange. The church of St. Joseph in barrio Cabalantian was not spared. Dr. Willem Olalia (my surgeon) and his wife, Dr. Salve Olalia, both of the UST Hospital, gathered their friends and asked them to help rebuild the church. Many fundraising events later, the grand rebuilding took place on March 18, 1998 on the condition area bought by the group.

Parish priest then was the late Fr. Nestor Tayag. Yolanda David Reyes, former UST Architecture dean, designed a beautiful church, in which she is a major donor. Construction is ongoing; a single donor is donating the steel trusses for the roof.

A temporary chapel was built where Mizzet are celebrated. Parish priest Fr. Jesus Manalac and his brother Fr. Michael Manalac are officiating saying the Novena Masses at 5:30 p.m. Archbishop Pacifico Antonio celebrated the first Novena Mass last March 18. Procession will take place on March 17 after the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Masses on March 19 are 7 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Helping the Olalias in the fundraising is long-standing one going are Engr. Lucito Sibug, Raffael Ciudio and Ted. de Belt.

To help, you can deposit your pesos donations to the St. Joseph Pastoral Council account at BDO Savings, account no. 112-5003-087, or your dollar donations to St. Joseph Parish Cabalantian at Robinson's bank, account no. 2837013000994. For inquiries, text 0919-8056889. Thanks for your kindness.

Healing masses

Office of St. Joseph priest Fr. Nelson Oconto will hold Healing Masses on March 13, 3 p.m., at the St. Joseph Parish in Bombongan, Bataan, and on March 16 at 6 p.m. at the Sanctuario de San Jose in Greenhills.

Cuenca's exhibit

Thirty seven images depicting the passion and death of Jesus Christ are spread out in the chapels of San Agustin Church in an exhibit mounted by the Hermandad de la Sagrada Pasion de Jesus.

The exhibit was opened by Intramuros Vice Lady Imelda Manzon, then Ate Intramuros, Thelma Bolado and Jorge Allen Fringer, Members of the Cofradia de Nuestra Señora de Soledad have displayed their collection of "Soledad" images. Included are the 300-year old "Tres Cadiz" from Bolinao, Pangasinan, the century-old "Mater Dolorosa" from Ilocos and the old "Santo Entierro" of San Agustin Church. Exhibit ends on March 27.

Holy Land pilgrimages

It is now clear to travel again to the Holy Land, Egypt and Jordan, according to Adam's Travel, after they were told by their tour operators that conditions in Egypt have normalized. Tahrir Square in Cairo has been cleared, and the Egyptian Museum, one of the world's best anthropological museums, has now reopened to the public.

Wenneth Samaris, president of Adams Express Travel, has scheduled departures on March 26 with Fr. Jojo Bernardo; April 9 with Fr. Noel Oriel; May 5 with Fr. Mardonio Villagonzalo; May 23 with Fr. Jose Ilano; and May 15 with Fr. Mocky Caballes as pilgrimage chaplains.

Extension through a Nile River cruise involving Luxor, Karnak, Valley of the Kings and Aswan or to Dubai is possible. For details, call 527-2831/ 521-1600 or 521-1699 or text Ann at 0908 205 0858.

Helping cancer patients

The Sining Hospital Volunteers Foundation is helping poor cancer patients of the Phil. General Hospital. The ongoing exhibit, "Emotional Transcendence," until March 25, at the Room 103 or 106 of the ALCUCHAS, on Ocampo Avenue, Ermita/Malate, features 30 works of Pancho Flores, Teo Pangalinan, the century-old "Mater Dolorosa" from Ilocos and the old "Santo Entierro" of San Agustin Church. Exhibit ends on March 27.

Happy 80th birthday, Inang

The mother of my good friend Nilo Agustin is celebrating her 100th birthday on March 17. Gumrakan de la Cruz Agustin from Obando, Bulacan, is the widow of Eugenio Agustin, also of Obando. She became a widow when Nilo was only one year old. She supported her children Lilledoo, Beatrice and Nilo through college by sending the canteen of the BSH school in the town.

"Inang" lives with Nilo who is the director of sales and marketing at The Manor Hotel in Camp Aguinaldo by Baguio. God bless you, Inang!

Also, blessings to former Manila Councilor Bernardo "Benny" Ragasa (1992 to 1998) who celebrated his 80th birthday at the Greenjacket Room of the Century Park Hotel. Family and friends came to wish him well, including Fr. Ben Padrones, former parish priest of Sta. Catalina in Boac Boa, where Benny is from; Mayor Carlos Arcache, Boac; ex-Bokawin, principal of the Bernardo Ragasa Elementary School, and Boac vice-Chavit Singson.

Hosting the party were Benny's children Jim and Gina Ragasa, and Joe and Joslyn Ragasa. Instead of gifts, guests gave to the lying-in clinic and the elementary school of Santa Catalina.

Pet Day celebration

Valle Verde recently successfully concluded its Pet Day celebrations, which included a pet fun run, magic show, dog exhibition, a fashionista contest capped by a grand raffle where over P100,000 were given away in prizes. The event, the first of its kind, was participated in mostly by the residents of the different Valle Verdes. In the picture are, from left to right, Jocki Benitorio, Pat Alonso, Elaine Borrega, Ramon Bob Llana, Rep. Roman Romulo, who gave out the prizes and Antonio Perez. Invited foreground is one of the winners Bojak, a labrador.

Mall launches model search

SM LUZON Mall's Generation Next 2011 presents "The Model Search" now on its 12th year. The search is open to male and female aspiring models aged 16 to 21, at least 5'7" in height for males and 5'8" for females. Filipino or of Filipino descent, with good looks, attractive body, clear skin, pleasing personality, with confidence, talent and good moral character. Those interested may get an application form at the Actual Promo department.

Over P150,000 worth of cash, gift certificates and other prizes await winners. For details, call 891-0404 local 7118 or visit www.statusonline.com.

Sun promo extended until March 19

For only P200/day, the Sun's Unlimited Data Roaming Promo has been extended.

Travelers can now stay Sun-postpaid SIM in more than 100 countries with over 300+ roaming partners worldwide.

The Unlimited Data Roaming Promo is open to all Sun Cellular postpaid subscribers.

Sun Unlimited Data Roaming Promo is valid until March 19. For details, visit www.suncellular.com.ph or go to www.twitter.com/suncellularserv.

Fax may also call the Sun hotline by dialing 300 from your Sun mobile phone or 388 8000 from any landline.

Andrew Ferrando concert

Baritone Andrew Ferrando will perform at Wes The Cook Shop next on March 13, 6 p.m., with pianist Mary Anne Espino. He will sing the tunes requested in Verdi's Rigoletto and Aida; 19 with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Olivier Schlumm, after which he comes to Long Beach Spare in Calibrate to sing Recha in Mendelssohn's Moscow Cherry Town. Tickets at P1,000 each with dinner. Call (+63 (2) 02 or 0906-412-5270.

Stratworks is most awarded agency at Anvil Awards

Stratworks, the agency with the most number of Anvils in the PRSP history, was represented by Ray Gonzales, Strategic Planning Director; Grace Bernardo-Espiritu, Account Supervisor; Mark Cristian Portada, Public Relations Director; Mike Marquez, Account Director and Harold Gonzalez, Senior PR Manager.

Stratworks Public Relations, Inc. (Stratworks) took home four awards at the recently concluded 40th Anvil Awards. An independent local marketing communications agency, Stratworks received three Anvil Awards of Excellence and one Award of Merit for successful initiatives with some of the country's biggest brands.

Together with country's leading barrilled cattle, the agency won an Award of Excellence in the Special PR Projects category for the Cebu Pacific Piso Sale Juan Media Encouragement Challenge. By engaging the media in a close-country contest on who can have the most number of fun experiences at the least expense, the challenge helped promote local tourism and a budget travel mindset among Filipinos.

Stratworks won another Anvil Award of Excellence in the Public Relations Program category for its work with Jollibee in bringing the joy of Christmas to children most affected by the twin disasters of Ondoy and Pepeng. The "Oh! Joyful Milagro ang Pasko" showcased the Filipinos' generous spirit as it mobilized almost 15,000 Jolly Toy Donors, generated record-high toy and book donations, spread Christmas cheer with the Christmas Caravan and even rehabilitated affected school resources in Metro Manila.

A campaign with Greenwich also won an Award of Excellence in the same category. The Greenwich Level Up Campaign was lauded for reaching its young target market towards continuously self-improvement by helping up the brand's many offers to consumer.

Stratworks also received an Award of Merit for its work with the Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines for the "Footlingapore travel-himself" campaign that successfully promoted the country to many tourists through media relations and online initiatives.

Bill Chrisolo, Cebu Pacific PR manager and Wenna Bagaoisan, JD Network Holdings, Inc. PR manager

Jollibee's Kay Dagdagan-Ocampo, brand manager; Arlan Adora, PR manager; Luis Lee, assistant brand manager; Charlene Tecson, assistant brand manager; Audrey Bisnar, PR assistant, and Dennis Reyes, PR officer.

Wenna Bagaoisan, PR manager; Mike Marquez, account manager

Luis Wilson, Greenwich marketing director

Michelle Padin, Greenwich PR manager; Alan Tee, assistant brand manager and Joseph Arena, Greenwich brand manager

It was the second time the agency was the most awarded at the Gala ng Pangarap. The company achieved the same feat when it first joined the Anvil Awards in 2007, even taking home the much coveted Grand Anvil Award for its masterful handling of star in signing Pinoy Philippine Mr. Colored Cayetano campaign.

She can make everybody love a good story

From page F1

works have been translated into various languages, including English, German, Italian and Japanese. Grino has also traveled all over the world, using the age-old art of storytelling to address issues such as poverty, love, discrimination and literacy among others.

She was invited to the Philippines by the South Africa Embassy and SM Supermalls for several scheduled performances and workshops.

An eagle that flies

Right off the bat, Grino made it clear that she possessed endless energy. On the way to her show in SM Batangas last Feb. 23, she greeted her groggy entourage with a wide smile and a loud "hello."

At the venue, Grino sat on the bleachers, waiting for her audience, students from local elementary schools. She hardly stopped talking, pausing only to touch up her lip balm and to drink water. She was the epitome of calmness.

"I don't get nervous," she said. But she confessed that the fear of suddenly forgetting her stories hasn't escaped her. However, she was used to such predicaments.

"Whatever you do, you must do it with the best of your ability—that is my upbringing," Grino said. "You do the best that you can, and you strive from the difficult place to reach a certain height."

Once the bleachers were filled, Grino jumped onstage. She greeted her fans, arranged her hair, pants and with her hands in a time of TC cellphones and iPads, everyone is unsure clothes, moving stopwatch, ought not be the most effective way to capture children's attention. And Grino had no gimmicks—just a microphone, her booming voice, and her stories.

Grino brings out the child in her listeners. Whether it was the fable of the crocodile and the monkey or the tale of the mother and her four children, everyone responded with cheering and mirth. "There is no age limit to stories," she said. "It's inescapable, timeless and universal."

One of the students even stomped her foot a number—an understandable mistake, as she had come close to becoming one. Like a fearless Grino likes imparting important messages in her stories, inspiring others. Literacy is one of her advocacies. She even has a worthy campaign called "Storyworld," aimed at the less illiterate grandmothers who collected any item with words in its vicinity.

Her mother had encouraged her to go into the noble profession of teaching, but Grino insisted on becoming a writer. Years of rejection had warranted her journalism, theater, then finally, storytelling.

When a 32-year-old Grino was directing theater in Chicago in 1993, people lionized her, since she came from the magical and mysterious land of Africa. She had been telling stories part-time in a Chicago museum when she realized that she should do it as her own country. That prompted her to explore her roots.

Returning was like jumping ship. When you jump like that, it's either you're scheduled or an eagle," Grino said. "I would've failed, but luckily I became an eagle that flies. I believe in what I do, I'm passionate about it. It has taken me to heights I would not imagine."

"I never looked back. I've never been happier," she said.

Her grandmother was her biggest influence. Her favorite story, she recounted, was about a young prince and his impressive capture of the impossible—and one called snow bride. "It was a story that speaks about bravery. It also describes how, if we all combine and share our talents, the world would be better."

Ambitious, yes, but she believes she has one last thing to achieve, Nobel-ness. However, she said, her eyes lighting up. The literature dictate is an avid reader, she's preserving his

GCBAK with SM's Mike Dizon and Hayden Mukondi

WITH Hayden Mukondi of the South African embassy

GCBAK with students from Pampanga

Inner child

After the shows, and upon learning that she had some free time before dinner, Grino announced she wanted to go shopping.

Plotching her browser through the mall was a chore in itself. She had the most boundless energy and joy as an angel. "Enjoy life," she kept saying. With a child's eyes, she marveled...examining the "very nice" notebook as a beauty salon, laughing at a Boy Simpson cake on a novelty store shop display (especially the mall's stained-shaped cake).

After some contrast, a train she believes every storyteller should have, "Inspiration is all around us. And when you are passionate about something, you see it all the time."

After the mall hours had passed, Grino reviewed her purchases, having also her husband, Jeremiah (for himself), dresses (for her daughter and niece), cupit pincenez (for the former), dried mangoes, jewelry. Then, she dropped the polka-dotted socks she was checking. "Enough, this is how people drop when they drop," she said, but the temptation proved too massive soon. On the way to the register, she picked up more treats that caught her eye.

Dallas, after her second show, she maintained she never got tired. "Storytelling is something I love, and the passion drives me to work hard." After shopping, though, she sat down, announced she was exhausted, then scraped into cricket silence.

An hour later, however, during the car home, she was telling stories again.

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DANCE Idol MEETS ICON DANCE

Choreographed by: Rhoy Ramos

On Sunday March 13, 2011 6:30PM at Spotlight Makati # 2257 Pasong Tamo Ext. Beside Alpha Mall Edsa Makati City

For Inquiries: Dance Theatre Arts Studio located at Wilfer Mart Pasong Tamo St Makati City Tel. # 487 - 60 - 85 / 372 - 29 - 85

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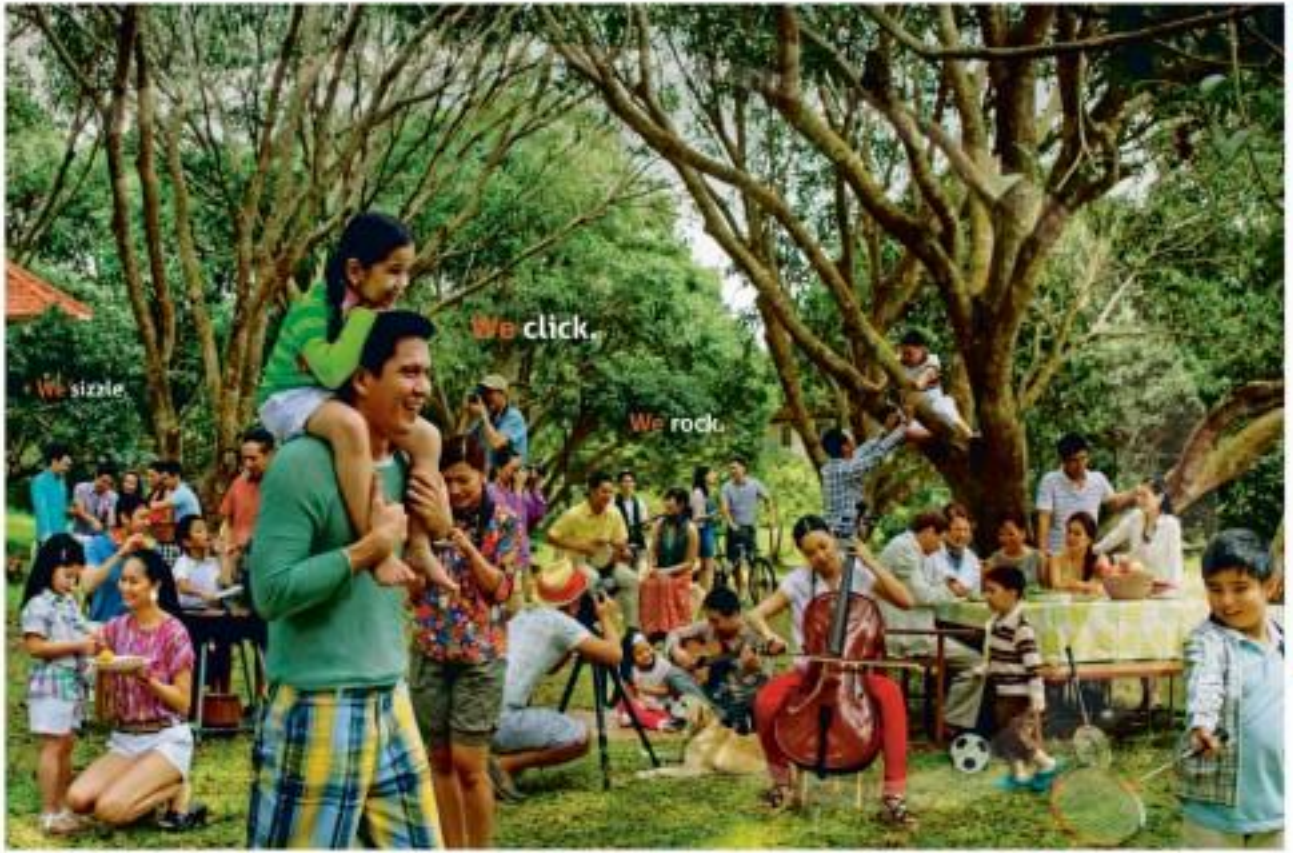

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AYALA
WESTGROVE
HEIGHTS

IN THIS ISSUE
■ It's a great time to run for a cause /C1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

WHITE Lamborghini and red Ferrari parked in Revillame's driveway in Scout Heights

He will build not only his house in it but also a boutique hotel–'a very high-end boutique hotel complete with its own heliport'

Willie's latest buy–Chito Madrigal's Tagaytay property

WHEN WILLIE Revillame invites you to dinner in his much buzzed-about house, you go. Not only because you want to meet this guy whom people love to either hate or love, but also because you want to see the P90-million house.

It's P90 million, according to Revillame himself, as he toured us around the house during a dinner organized by friends Louie Cruz and Robert Garafola. As anybody who knows his (Eureka) 183 by now, the TV host bought this Scout Heights (Quezon City) house from his erstwhile boss, ABS-CBN chairman Gabby Lopez, a few years back, and had it fixed and furnished to the tune of P90 million more—an amount that went into renovations and the mostly Italian furnishings.

Curiously, Revillame toiled off those amounts as matter-of-factly, like he was talking about a business investment.

Well, in fact, he was. This TV master showman, who used to be the highest earner in show biz, is so obviously in an investment mode. He just bought the palatial estate of the late Chito Madrigal in Tagaytay.

The Madrigal property is in a prime location with a full view of Taal Lake, as good as the vista from the Shine to the Sky, Imelda Marcos' cathedral development. Revillame sounded ecstatic talking about his recent acquisition.

WILLIE R. GO

Amparito ahead of Mandy Moore

LAVALLIER In a Monique Lhuillier wore before Mandy Moore did at the Oscars.

EASILY THE most-talked-about wedding this year—in fact toured as the wedding of the year—was that of Carla Yeung and Christopher McKowen in Cebu last Feb. 26 at Waterfront Hotel.

It was most elaborate and grand, with the Cebu-based lineup apparently going all out to give the young couple who met in London a most memorable wedding. The bride alone had many changes, in gowns by Cebuano-born designer Monique Lhuillier. The bride is the daughter of Carlos and Margalyn Yeung—one of Cebu's wealthiest. Margalyn is is a known jeweler.

The baubles and gowns—mostly by Lhuillier, Cebu's Cary Santiago and Philip Rodrigues—were jaw-dropping.

A standout, people say, was Amparito Lhuillier, Monique's mom, who wore her daughter's design—a black, glittery number which Mandy Moore would wear to the Oscars two days later.

Amparito beat Monique to it. One of the perks of being the mother of the designer.

Uniquely Filipino Fashion Accessories by Kultura FILIPINA

Kultura Filipina, the premiere lifestyle store for distinctly Filipino-made products from home accents to fashion collections and jewelry, presents, brings you another Accessories Fair for Fashionistas.

This March, the spotlight is on jewelry fashion accessories and jewelry which showcase the creativity and ingenuity of local artisans. Choose from statement pieces in classic South Sea Baroque and rice pearls from Khai Pearl and Hinabol, and colorful inspired selections from Piranha and House of Jewelry, or add a twist to otherwise basic ensembles with artisan pieces from Elizabeth Peyer, Ate Maria Caroline, Rosca Jewelry, Sparkling Creations and Lyzar. Or for ethnic flair with chic accessories made from natural materials such as wooden beads and shells by turnkey own line, Magarita by Kultura.

Certified stylists will enjoy discounts of up to 20% on pearls and selected fashion accessories at Kultura Filipina, with stores located at SM Mall of Asia Main Mall, SM Megamall Building A, The Block at SM City North Edsa, SM Makati, and at SM City Cebu.

Great accessories are also available at Kultura Inasmundo at SM City Davao and SM Mall of Asia Entertainment Mall, as well as Kultura Bali, at Tuel Vista Hotel and Puri Bo Luxe Beach Club.

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Elegant freshwater pearl strands in different sizes, by Khai Pearl and Hinabol

Choker and bangles in natural beads and wood from Cebu, exclusively carried by Magarita

Also for more necklaces and bracelets made from wooden beads or leather straps, exclusively at Magarita by Kultura

Coco wood earrings, Magarita by Kultura

One-of-a-kind statement pieces by Elizabeth Peyer are hand-crafted from rare mesh and semi-precious stones like brown jasper, carnelian and glass beads

Matching necklaces, bracelets and earrings in semi-precious stones like agate, jade and red coral, all from Magarita by Kultura

Vibrant red coral accessories from Lyzar and Ate

Wire bangles with metal-pressed accents from Sparkling Creations

Traditional watercolor necklace with a contemporary twist by Piranha

Printed and distributed by PhilippineStar.com
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Sunday

POOL in Sen Blanca's Ayala Heights home runs along the side of the house, with steps and garden on the end.

Willie's latest buy–Chito Madrigal's Tagaytay property

ANARTURIO Luis is the highlight of the corridor leading to the bedrooms.

A CESAR Legaspi work is the focal by the door that opens onto Sen Blanca's master's bedroom.

DINING sitting room

BETHEmanila room

BEN LLANETA study/ reception

BEN LLANETA "Banaue" mural

MANOK CELSIA glass sculptures of multilingual cocks

WOODEN stairway has emerald chevron embedded from stairway down Wine Bar.

DINING table in the front

From page G1

It's not on the peak, it's midland, so one gets a close view of the landscape, he said. It has a house, its construction left unfinished upon Madrigal's death a few years ago. He will build not only his house in it but also a smaller hotel – a very high-end boutique hotel, complete with its own helipad," he said.

He sounded exceptionally busy preparing and never alone each acquisitions and projects.

"I'm looking at the space now from one, where I reside. Of course, I need more than three investments when I'm starting over, but..."

This Ayala Heights house is originally an Andy Locsin building, of the famous architect's Sen Blanca designed by the Legaspi and his wife Regine, and as Bel Bunoz recalled, some family milestones took place here. Some time when Regine gave birth to her son, with the help of a midwife. (Mrs. Legaspi believed in natural childbirth, as no hospitals existed.)

'Modern tropical'

The house is what is now considered "modern tropical"—simple wood, airy and open sea in the garden, with expansive glass walls and sliding doors, minimalist interiors and "very Locsin"—the house is anchored by a water feature, designed like a pond or swimming pond is.

In case—just in case—you couldn't guess right away who lives in the house, the visitor Luneburg hint and Bunoz pointed to the driveway decorative sculptures of cocks.

The walkway to the door is glass built over the "pond." It was Bunoz's idea: glass sculpture of a cocking woman greets the foyer...an early sign that the house's eclectic decor has major conversations.

Further on is a tall and beautiful mural. The mural is an artwork in an odd shape. From the top, it seems as though it's like a fan, echoing the house's shape. Upstairs is the corridor leading to the bedrooms are more impressive artworks...Arturo Luz and Cesar Legaspi.

Bel Bunoz's bedroom, the master bedroom, has a wooden ceiling, as in a "bahay kubo."

In the garden, the pool, which Bel Bunoz had redesigned, runs down the side of the house with steps to in the middle.

Indeed, this is a dream house, if we ever saw one—with just one element lacking, we told Bel Bunoz, the woman of the house.

But that is another story. TIT

LUISV Lorenzo

Philippine Star

DINNER Ivan Lorenzo Cruz (far left) with Regine Legaspi, Bea Bongbong Marcos and Cristy Zapanta

ARCHITECT Raoul Manalo

BEN LLANETA and good friend Roberto Concepcion

ARCHITECT Raoul Manalo

ANGELES Antigua, Sarah Wooldridge, Iris Arevalo and Mary Anne Arnaiz

MATT Lucero and Mylene Fernandez

DAVID Ugarte, Jamie Graham, Margarita Bandonill, Juergen Pantel and Elsa Ugarte

KATE Arnaiz, Lani Pasquet, Alan Gabionzello, Honey Therese and Fred Ayre

A 'La Vida Loca' birthday celebration in Cebu

DUTCH Carnegy and Margarita Lhuillier

JANET Ugarte, Sandra Pesch and Philip Sumsuyong

AT CHECKMARK: Richard Burgos and Dwight Pagaduan

KATE Sumsuyong and Jan Graham

PEGGY Sanchez, Sara Oakley and Pierre Oakley

By Kaye G. Lagos and Cybill Capule
Contributors

YOU HAVE not heard from designer of Senior Accessories Batch Carnegy and hostess dynamite Margarita Sandonill... they never know how to hide the celebrity blues.

The duo hosted a joint birthday celebration at the newly renovated Lava at Vida last Feb. 9 for their partyphile friends, including the young ones and the young ones, keeping their partying and dancing until a bit before sunrise. It wasn't, never partying balanced with wit and flair, refining the revelry of the month-related 'Al Vida' fun. In keeping with the theme, guests were asked to come in their scandalous Latin outfits, and others more than willingly obliged.

Their invitation had written, "One was born to 'Lily, the other is hopping to be 20," and noted, "But no matter our age, we can still party like we should be on stage." They made good on their promise with a hot opening dance to Ricky Martin's "Livin' La Vida Loca," moving through the dance floor like they had little wings on their feet. Performances by the Cebu Divettes and underage artist and drag queen extraordinaire Rosanna Vergara, decked out in white spandex and Saharan workings, big hair and an oversize ball in hand, followed... and soon enough, the entire club was moving to DJ Patrick Elmaid's cross-Latino grooves.

Oh, what a night!

It was a swinging midweek party for the young ones as well as the 'young once'

DELPHINE de Leeuw

LANI Pasquet and Tanya McCarthy

NICOLETTE Yusi and Ina Abalde

DAVID Maitland-Smith, Pia Cayetano, Cris Thompson-Brooks, Marcus Arevalo and Dutch Carnegy

ACHIES Nantal, Iris Arevalo and Jane Alagoria

From Ninoy to Noynoy:
25 Years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

"From Ninoy to Noynoy: 25 years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer" chronicles the last 25 years of Philippine history through the pages, photos, editorials and events chronicled in the last quarter century's newspaper of record.

From the tragic to the comic and the many shades in between, the Inquirer's 25th anniversary offering highlights the resilience and heroism of Filipinos through the moving days of the Marcos dictatorship, the heady days of Edsa People Power I, the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions of the early 1990s to the second Edsa People Power at the turn of the century. And it is highlighting not the corrupt the woman whose freedom dreams parted in Pres. Arroyo's term as the country's 15th president.

A longtime title history of the "Noynoy Project" the book takes the story of the Inquirer through its various years, from a paper famous for its personal struggle against one dog to a group of news stories published in the pre-internet era, broadcast, television and mobile.

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SKECHERS wins coveted Store of the Year award from Ayala Malls

Ayala Land Commercial Center Head Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Chairman of Ayala Land Commercial Center Development Company Antonio Jacinto Gonzalez, Skechers Asia Pacific Business Unit Vice President Kyle Lucas, President and Commercial Group Head

Skechers, a Brand Name that recently celebrated its Silver in the 1990 Philippine Retail Awards, has been awarded as Store of the Year in the "Mid-Range Apparel" category by Ayala Malls Group of Companies.

The coveted award was given by Ayala Land Chairman Jaime Zobel de Ayala and Ayala Land President and Commercial Group Head Tony Aquino was received by Aaron Ong, Retail Operations Manager of Skechers and Patrick Aaron Director, Retail Store Operations.

Skechers' success is based upon the innovative and responsive design of the shoes. Skechers' Dig It has the variety and freshness of a Converse shoe and the attitude and energy and the practical comfort of an Adidas shoe.

Skechers Philippines, Apple Retail Brand Manager Vanessa Gonzales said the company is very pleased to receive the award as it is a testament to the Philippines' appreciation for diverse footwear product line.

Retail Operations Manager Aaron Ong said, "This award is really a testament to the support of Skechers to give our customers the best shopping experience. Whenever they visit our stores we're committed to their 100 percent satisfaction guarantee. Skechers Philippines is also committed to give back to the community and the Philippines through Skechers Shapeups, Fitness Group.

Skechers are the most shoes designed to strengthen muscles, promote weight loss and improve posture. Presenting a more distinct customer and Skechers USA brands, Skechers Dual Response midsoles working on each shoe Skechers provide unparalleled cushioning, enhancing stability with every step.

Skechers Shapeups has also introduced Skechers Rockies Shoes (RT) and Skechers Rockies Sandals (RS) to the Philippines.

Photo courtesy of Skechers

Skechers Rockies (RT) made famous by NBA basketball legend Karl Malone and international tennis star, Pat Rafter, is scientifically engineered with a unique rocker bottom design that helps you burn more calories in every step. Skechers Rockies (RS) is the sandal version of the Rockies (RT) with the same rocker bottom design.

Skechers Rockies (RT) made famous by NBA basketball legend Karl Malone and international tennis star, Pat Rafter, is scientifically engineered with a unique rocker bottom design that helps you burn more calories in every step. Skechers Rockies (RS) is the sandal version of the Rockies (RT) with the same rocker bottom design.

Skechers is one of the world's most successful footwear companies with a worldwide network of over 4,000 accounts in more than 100 countries. Skechers is also the official footwear of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

For more information on Skechers and the exclusive at www.skechers.com.ph and Facebook at www.facebook.com/skechersphilippines.

Remembering Louie Mamengo —'one of the brightest stars of fashion'

By Cinelle V. Morel

He made padded shoulders before Kirei made it 'pauso,' says Frederick Peralta of the designer who died of cancer in LA this week

ALL HE wanted was a little more time. But death wasn't quite ready to relinquish.

Louie Mamengo, one of Manila's popular fashion designers in the 1980s and early 1990s, died in Los Angeles, California, early this week after a six-month battle with lung cancer. He would have turned 53 next month.

Mamengo, who left the Philippines some 20 years ago, had been planning to stage his first fashion collection in 10 years when he was diagnosed with cancer, according to longtime friend Jory Espino. Espino had just arrived in New York City on Sunday when he received the message about his friend's passing.

"I'm died while I was on the plane," Espino said in a phone interview on Wednesday afternoon (Manila time) from the big apple.

Only four weeks earlier, Mamengo confided in Espino that his disease was in the terminal stage.

"That was the last time we spoke," said Espino, a fashion director. "And you know, his message was, 'Tell everyone, don't smoke. Don't even start. I didn't know it was this hard.'"

Espino was set to fly to LA on Friday for the viewing of his friend's remains. He said Mamengo had requested his wish to be brought home and be buried next to his father. Espino, however, wasn't privy to the plans of the Mamengo's family.

Apprentice

Mamengo started out as an apprentice to Gregg Cruzmar in the early 1980s, mentor Frederick Peralta, who also learned under the same designer.

"Louie was very good," Peralta said. "He made padded shoulders before Kirei made it pauso," he added, referring to the popular 1980s boutique. "His shop was on Galleguez Street in Malate, where all the popular designers' shops were."

Mamengo, however, is best remembered

"LOUIE was endlessly in everyone. There was no room here in his body," says friend and cohostmate Jackie Aquino of the late designer (above, in an undated photo).

for designing the clothes of then rising star Regine Velasquez.

"He was one of the brightest stars of fashion. He made clothes for big names," said fashion director Jackie Aquino, another friend. Aquino and Mamengo were schoolmates. They had the same set of friends at De La Salle University, along with designer Randy Ortiz.

"It was a loss for Philippine fashion that he left so very his luck in the US. In the 1990s[,]" Aquino said. Mamengo was at the peak of his career in Manila.

The competitive American market, however, didn't work in Mamengo's favor. But he persisted, designing for some companies there later dabbling in other creative avenues. He worked as a florist, and was also in to extensive design before his death, according to Aquino and Espino.

Eventually, Mamengo brought his siblings to live with him in the US.

More time

"He was a nice soul. He was a good person," Aquino said tearfully. "It wounded my heart to hear that his sisters took care of him when he was sick. His close friends were with him. Louie was well loved by everyone. There was no room here in his body."

Mamengo died at September last year, according to Espino. After 11 weeks in the hospital, he was told he had cancer.

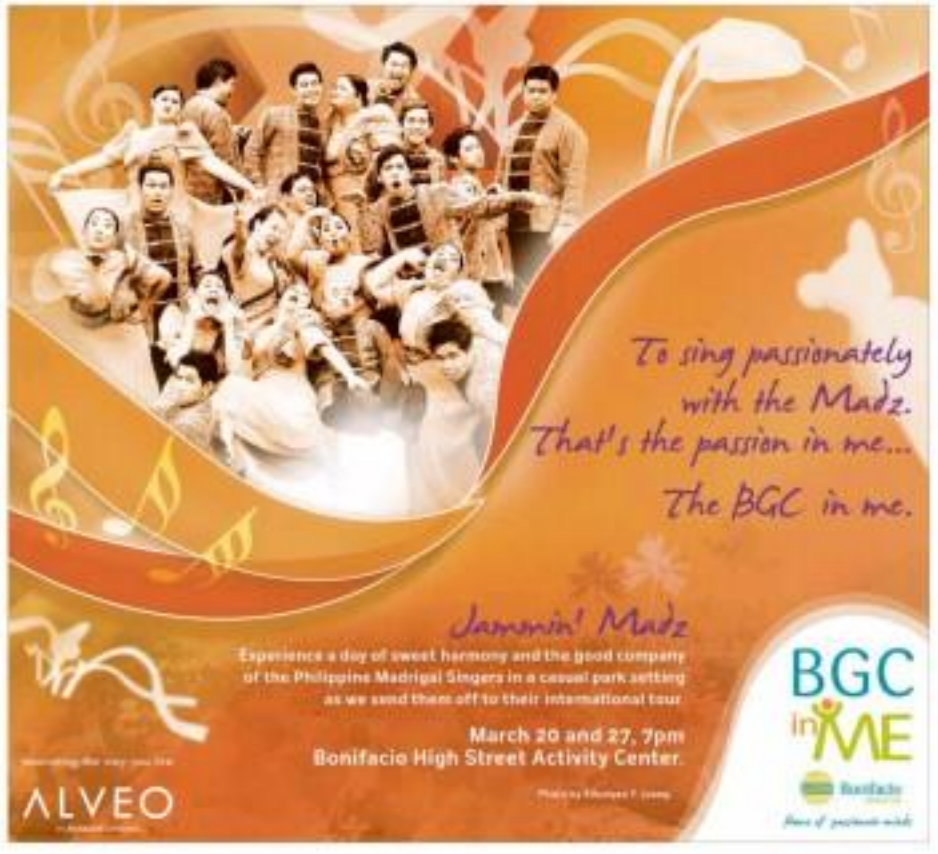
The two friends last made in the four-four years following Mamengo's departure. They reconnected some years later. One time, the designer flew to Manhattan to see Espino who was there on one of his business trips. They began discussing a Mamengo comeback.

"He told me all he wanted was more time," Espino said. "Before this happened, I asked where he wanted to throw, whether it's New York or Manila, and he said both would be fine. And when he got sick."

Mamengo was "instrumental in many senses," Aquino said. Aside from Espino, designers Rajo Laurel and director Ariel Lorilla were Mamengo's words. Mamengo was "funny sometimes" Lorilla's here in Manila.

"He opened my eyes. He encouraged me. I owe much of what I am today to Louie," Espino said. "Words can't express the feeling of loss."

MAMENGO was preparing a comeback collection when he succumbed to lung cancer early this week in Los Angeles. Above, the designer at the finale of a show in the 1990s.



Sun LIFESTYLE

Year-long must-see events celebrate Italy's 150th unification anniversary

ITALY celebrates the 150th anniversary of its unification with a year-long lineup of must-see events, including a Salvatore Ferragamo show at Rustan's, a Fellini retrospective, and a performance of Verdi's "Requiem."

"Unity, diversity and beauty" said Italian Ambassador to the Philippines Luca Ferrari, is what has defined Italy over time.

Rustan, Rustan's president Yolanda Tantoco and Cultural Center of the Philippines president Raul Sunico led a handpress conference to announce the year-long calendar.

To prepare for this year's Italian Festival at Rustan's, Tantoco went down on a trip to Milan recently.

The 150th anniversary of Italy's unification will be celebrated worldwide. In the Philippines, the celebration starts March 18 with the seventh century service of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, presented by CCP with the Embassy of Italy.

Rustan's and the Philippine Italian Association, to be held at CCP Main Theater.

The PPO, conducted by music director and principal conductor Olivier Ochanine, will lovingly perform the overture to Mascagni, which contains the very famous "In paradiso" chorale, followed by one of the most monumental works of the entire Italian composer, Giuseppe Verdi – "Requiem."

"Nabucco" is considered the soundtrack of the Italian Risorgimento (means "resurrection").

On April 6-20, Italian restaurant methods and instruments of Italian excellence in art, science and architecture will be showcased in an exhibit at Bulwagang Juan Luna Gallery, Ground Floor, Quezon Hall, University of the Philippines, Quezon City.

This exhibit is an appropriate response to the growing demand for Italian renaissance method. The Intramuros Administration will soon build a museum to house an important collection of works of art from the 1700s, and has asked the Italian Embassy's support in organizing workshops by Italian masters.

YUMI ANG KI

From Ferragamo show to Fellini retrospective

ITALIAN Ambassador Luca Ferrari and his wife Silvana Ferrari, Rustan's president Nieto Tantoco, Cultural Center of the Philippines' president Raul Sunico, Italian Embassy Cultural Attache Emmanuela Adinolfi and UP professor Dani Silvestre at the press con of Italy's 150th year of Unification at Makati Shangri-La Hotel

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Sports celeb didn't run off with designer pants

IF A recent photo shoot for a glossy tells is that one of the subjects made off with the designer pants he wore.

Someone close to the young man in question, a member of a very popular sporting team, however defended him. The source stressed that the athlete didn't have sticky fingers, it seems he thought it was a freebie, just one of the many he wears is being showered with lately. He was unaware the pants cost $2,000.

When called out on his faux pas, the young man immediately apologized and promised to return the pricey piece of menswear.

P6 million worth of beer in a boutique

THE is undoubtedly a first: Brew and Time Ocampo will make an art installation starring 10 motor bike mechanics—from 100,000 San Miguel beer cans.

The cans aren't empty. They add up to P6 million worth of beer.

The first 6 bout of installation. It's meant to raise funds to build homes for Bea Zobel JC's Habitat for Humanity.

It is a collaboration between San Miguel Brewery and Co-Incline, the global brand of huge and fashion accessories which Ocampo has built. The installation will be unveiled tomorrow at "The Filipino Heritage— Transcending Time & Brand-wise" at Columbia boutique, Greenbelt 5.

The Ocampos have certainly been pushing the envelope when store display is concerned. Last month they used (sheltered human body parts (as in corpses)—sex aria, torso, head—in their window display, stopping just a few shoppers in their tracks. The preserved items were borrowed from the exhibit of human body parts at the Post.

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A garden—but what a garden it is!

By Anneliese Roque
Correspondent

GARDEN in Talisay

IN A rural village in Talisay, Batangas, an area surrounded by vegetable and mango plantations, there is a garden. But what a garden it is!

It is perfect for late afternoon weddings, with a reception area that, at night, is transformed into a fairyland-type of colors with electric lights and gas lamps. The soaring branches of palm trees and other ornamental plants help transport newlyweds, their wedding entourage, and guests to wonderland.

Water cascades are beautifully arranged rocks and stones. In certain places in the garden, the water falls from six-meters-high man-made rock cliffs.

The gardens in Batangas Nine Hotel, to a friend 8,000 to 10 acres. It's about 200 m from Mahaffar Highway, just a few kilometers from the Cavite border.

In 2000, Loreto Yaw started developing the area into a garden on the property of his parents—as a plant nursery, including still the dream of his father, Lorenzo, to expand their plant nursery to another location.

"After finding in some other provinces were like patio-hopping and pushing up to set studio, my father heeded the advice of relatives to put up a plant nursery," Loreto recalls. "He established the plant nursery near our old house in 1988 and processed another 2,000 sq m to expand our ornamental plants. In time, our plant nursery business flourished."

Little in his father had on to how to be landscaping. So decided to add landscape gardening to the business, with the need relatives rounded by the answer.

"He involved me in it," said Loreto, a commerce graduate. "I found out that the area as you is that also runs in my blood."

Blocking the view

In 1998, Loreto decided to build an artificial mountain to their back yard. The idea was to emulate the mountains in Nueva Vizcaya and block the view of the rooftops of houses around their yard.

He made the mountain hollow to make room for a multi-purpose up to ornamental fishes, and provided it with eleven lights. He also erected an artificial waterfall on top of the pseudo-mountain.

He and his father then brought in big blue and green river stones, logs and other plants to house. By virtue of accident, and through his friends whose yards he landscaped, he says, most ornamental for landscaping jobs in Metro Manila, Nueva Vizcaya, La Union, Isabela and in Batangas.

He has since developed some 300 residential landscape gardens and five resorts. Some of his bigger projects were featured in newspapers and magazines. This made him a much-sought-after landscape gardening consultant.

Then also, the plant nursery his parents and four siblings asked him to develop his own showcase of a garden. "If you are making beautiful gardens for others, why aren't you making one for us, our showcase," Loreto quoted his mother. Then it refused. Loreto to telling him.

It did not take long for him to do what his mother asked, and the result is a garden that many guests have called a "perfect garden hideaway."

The name of the family's five plant nursery was "Tropical Garden," as it became natural for Loreto to call the new garden "Tropical Garden Resort and Hotel."

Favorite venue

The garden opened for business in early 2009. It was intended to be a venue for various functions like corporate meetings and receptions, debut and baptismal parties, get-together events as well as gathering as an extension of friends, retreats, workshops, and weekend travel for family members, especially children.

But once garden weddings have also become popular. Of the countryside, Tropical Garden Resort and Hotel became a favorite venue for outdoor weddings.

Strongly positioned at the far end corner of the garden is an elevated platform with a wooden hall, whose rooms fall on one side of the house and empties to a lagoon. It looks like a cave, but is open with two bedrooms in it, a kitchen and sala-type.

"The newlyweds are free to make the cave house the honeymoon suite," Loreto said. "Those relatives, if they wish to, can rent the rooms in our guest-hotel."

For wedding ceremonies, any of the other rooms in the garden can be used. One site is at the entrance of the garden with an elevated stage covered with a canopy and a frontage provided with small ponds where guiding water ripples. Pools, stone and ornamental plant arrangements accentuate the beauty of this wedding site.

For the reception, an open space near the ceremonial stage is provided. It can accommodate from 200 to 500 or more guests.

Red carpet

The other site is the area fronting the cave house. A metallic structure for the ceremony and ceilings for the pictorials with the wedding entourage, relatives, friends and other well-wishers is provided. A space near the palm trees and other ornamental plants, with grass as carpet, becomes the place for the couple's first dinner after the wedding.

For the procession of the wedding entourage, and the walk of the bride to meet his groom for their table dust, a long stretch of red carpet that leads on the side of the lagoon is laid out, leading to the ceremonial site. Many traffic in from a garden on one side of the lagoon.

"We set up the decorations, including flowers and electric lights, to match the pleated palms, bermudagrass, ornamental trees and other plants," Loreto said.

The reception tables are arranged in various spaces in between plants, so that the newlyweds can exhibit views of guests across the lagoon. Each table is provided with a gas lamp that lends an exotic romantic glow.

"Catering is provided by my sister, Daisy," Loreto said. "Our package prices depend on the number of guests and the food menus."

The garden also features an elevated swimming pool for adults and a kiddie pool. Its spacious ballroom for easily transformed into a venue for weddings, parties, or for business and social meetings, especially during the rainy season.

A portion of the garden is reserved for a plant nursery where one sees rows of ornamental plants are grown.

"We do not forget that our plant nursery started as on the new business enterprise," Loreto said.

GARDEN's reception area

WEDDING reception setup

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and given designs along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Features, PO Box 2355 Makati Central Post Office 1260 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required for the wedding but already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the readers.

NUEVO-PANES

Recently, Judy Panes, daughter of Julian and Lita Panes, tied the knot with Jeffrey Nuevo, son of Jaime and Cecilia Nuevo, at St. Ferrer Place (tel. 27144333), in a Christian ceremony, with reception held at the same venue. The venue was dressed up by Marlon de Leon using pink as its color motif, while table reception had pink lamp, flower and fruits centerpiece. The venue can accommodate 180 guests in their ballroom, while you can have your ceremony at their open patio with lush greens and water elements as backdrops.

GRADING-DE LA PAZ

Ryan Cobedding, son of Norman and Angelie Cobedding, and Jared Adrian de la Paz, daughter of Ricardo and Annabelle de la Paz, on April 2 at Mt. Carmel Shrine in Sta. Rosalia, QC. Reception will be in the Mark Rome Hall.

RAISING LOSTH BIRTHDAY

Carlos C. Ibong, husband of Marian Pagadian Ibong and is the of Gloria Ibong, Gloria Ibalaya, Lydia Lopez, Virginia Tuason, Elizabeth Cordinez, Leona Ibong and Marybeth Ibong, celebrated his 100th birthday in the company of Carlos, Isabela, on March 8. Relatives from far and wide made the long trip north to share the memorable event with him and his family.

VITUS-GAULE

Archbishop Howard C. Vitus led the Last with Dr. Gaulle C. Gallardo on Feb. 19 at the Mega Metropolitan Cathedral. Present were relatives brothers Jaime Belbrede and Lani Belbrede, uncle and aunts in line of the bride; Carlos and Florian-da M. Vitus, parents of the groom; and former Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

70th ANNIVERSARY

Romeo and Lydia Agulo celebrated their platinum wedding anniversary last Jan. 2 with their family, relatives and friends at the Sanctuary Garden of Redemption Christian Church of Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas.

Year-long must-see events celebrate Italy's 150th . . .

From page H1

Complementing the exhibit is a creative workshop on restoration for students and local experts that will involve UPs Department of Architecture and Fine Arts.

On June 2, Italian Republic Day, will be held Italian singer-song writer Eugenio Bennato's "Taranta Power" at Bridgestone Hall, Greenbelt 1, Makati City.

"Taranta Power" is a cultural and musical movement created by Bennato to promote, as means of communication, a type of Italian culture and music.

The Italian embassy in the country a new and vital image of Italian music culture that is able to unite a diverse audience of enthusiasts and young Filipinos, allowing them to know Italy and its ancient culture.

Ambassador Pennacchi and wife Gemma have not only come to love the Philippines, but have also traveled all over—Bohol, Palawan, Cebu.

Bennato has an interesting way of putting his knowledge of the Philippines—"Tan on the fourth layer of knowing the archipelago."

He explained the first three layers. "The first layer is knowing whether or not one likes the country. The second is knowing the people and how they react. The third is traveling around and experiencing the country. The fourth is immersing in the surroundings."

The Bennato knows this—the ambassador is a certified diver who's been at it for 50 years; she, for 20 years. They've been to Anilao and other dive sites in the country, and plan to go to Tubbataha, the famous Hastings site.

From May 25 to June 2, Bantayan, Makati City, will hold an Italian Festival featuring stands on cuisine of 9% gastronomy of 46 Danish—also interpreted by photographer Luca Capuano. (Metrobank Card Corp. co-sponsors the festival.)

Among Bantayan's restaurant brands are Italian—Angelo's, Fratelli, Fratelli Rossetti, Ristorante Pomposano, Gucci, Santa Monica Ristorante and Emilio Pucci.

Bantayan's customers will see new and interesting merchandise choices from a spectacular buying trip to Italy.

In August is the "5th International Libros Films Festival" at Ilustre Complex, Mendiola cor. Legarda, Manila.

The "Libros" is the festival's different movies on the Italian Risorgimento, "La guerra di Roma" (1902), considered the first movie on the topic, and "Vincere (Le Bellezze" (2009).

The movies will be accompanied by live music performed by a Filipino musician. Also featured will be a book and first edition of the International Libros Film festival in Manila.

In September in Whole Space, Makati City, will be held "Regione beyond the frontiers"; "Regione presented exhibition Italian good wines on the territory."

The year marks the 1000's anniversary of the death of Pellegrino Artusi, considered the father of modern Italian cuisine.

Carried out with the Emilia-Romagna Regione and "Casa Artusi," it will have Artusi's recipes translated in Italian, Spanish and Japanese.

Also in September is the "Federico Fellini: A Retrospective" at Cultural Center of the Philippines.

There also will be Salvatore Ferragamo Antonio Pastor 2011 Fashion Show, to be attended by top members from the third-generation Ferragamo family.

It's a fundraising by Divers Specialties, Inc. for the benefit of the Philippine Primate Association to help the Italian minister-sisters in the Philippines.

In October to be staged at CCP is a full-length opera featuring Maria Luigia Borsi and Vittorio Grigolo from Milan with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Pompeyo Baldovi.

Borsi is most remembered for her outstanding performance during the Arturo Borrelli concerts. Tenor Grigolo performs at La Scala in Milan.

Running from October to December is the Italian Film Festival & Edition at Shangri-La Plaza. CCP Libraries of the Philippines, Embassy of Italy in the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University and Xavier University-Cagayan de Oro.

The itinerant Italian film festival, then has now become an annual presentation of the Italian Embassy will have films dedicated to the historical period of Italian Risorgimento.

Other special events

To be unveiled is a plaque commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Philippine national hero Jose Rizal.

This celebrates the coincidence of celebrating the Unification of Italy and the birth of Rizal, a moral and unifying point of reference for all Filipinos. Rizal literally stayed in Italy during his exile.

In November is a multimedia exhibition, "Italy of the Future," at the Metropolitan Museum.

It will cover Italian contributions in culture, science and technologies focusing on robotics and nanotechnologies.

History

At the press lunch, Romeo explained in detail the history being celebrated.

On March 17, 1861, Vittorio Emanuele II, King of Piedmont-Sardinia, proclaimed the birth of the new Italian Kingdom in Turin, which became its first capital since then, it has been the capital of the same Piedmont-Sardinian, in northern Italy.

Before 1861, a "paupre" Italy did not actually exist. Italy had but been molded under the Piedmont-Sargrinian dynasty some 1,000 years before. Since then it had been divided into small and medium-sized regional states, often under Norman, German, French, Spanish and Austrian rulers.

Political fragmentation brought economic and cultural fragmentation as well—remnants of which still exist after one and a half century of unity.

The Risorgimento ("resurrection") was the 19th century movement for Italian unification inspired by the realities of the new economic and political forces at work after 1815—the liberal and nationalist ideologies spawned by the French Revolution of 1789, and the effects of the Industrial Revolution in Britain and elsewhere.

Throughout that period the operation of Italy dominated European politics with personalities such as Cavour, Mazzini, Garibaldi, Victor Emmanuel II, and, of course, Garibaldi becoming household names.

The Risorgimento was a fascinating and colorful mixture of armies, personalities, skirmishes, rebellions, grand battles and wars.

The Risorgimento had a two-fold significance. As a manifestation of the nationalism sweeping over Europe at the 19th century, it aimed to unite Italy under one flag and one government.

For many Italians, however, Risorgimento meant more than political unity. It described a movement for the renewal of Italian society and people beyond purely political aims and pursuing deeper social, economic ends, in culture and traditions.

Among Italian patriots, common denominators were also desire for freedom from foreign control, liberalism, and constitutionalism.

Mary Rosary and Rilogo de Castro Bulloss and Emily's Pets by Emily Maryelle will appear on Sunday, March 13.

SET SAIL FOR SUMMER AT SM MEGAMALL

It doesn't matter whether you are visiting the beach, walking along the promenade, or enjoying a weekend out of town, you will make waves with the Nautical Look this summer. This classic look with sailor stripes and red, white, and blue pieces made a splash in the runways in the Spring 2011 collections, and can now be found on the racks of the SM Megamall's fashion boutiques – EDC by Esprit, Bench, and Pirates and Pirits, as well at Charles and Keith.

Youth also can't go wrong in style swimwear from Jelly Bean, and the best of the blues from Levi's. Start shopping for your great summer getaway at the SM Megamall.

For inquiries visit www.sm-megamall.com or call 632-5843-46

BENCH

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JELLY BEAN

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Barbeque Grill Cart with casters and adjustable side trays

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- Keep your grill away from anything flammable like fences, your home, etc.
- Have the proper grill tools to do the job.
- Marinades are more than delicious. They tenderize the meat as well.
- Do not over-flip meats. Once is enough for thorough heating.
- Use spatula or tongs instead of fork which causes the juices to escape.

Kala Camping portable grill
Take it with you on picnics and out-of-town camping adventure.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Valverde

Spinster sisters

GINA Alajar and Helen Gamboa will play Vilma Santos's famous spinster sisters, Candida and Paula Marasigan, in the latest staging of "Lastikman." Pambo will seamlessly play Candida, Gamboa, Becky, and Sissi Steinmetz, Tony Javier in the Tanghalang Pilipino production scheduled in February 2012. Gamboa and Pambo last shared the small screen in the ABS-CBN soap opera, "Tayong Dalawa," two years ago. Reynold Ken Diego Jr.

DID YOU KNOW...

HONEYMOONERS

Neri Naig-Miranda, John Estrada and Priscilla Meirelles, twins no more (clockwise from left), take the customary break. After the beach stint in La Union, they relaxed for a day, then John rushed back to his daily roundtrip gig, "Happy Yipee Yehey!" The wedding special, "It Must Be Meant to Be," airs tonight on ABS-CBN.

CHEEK FACTOR

The Charlie Sheen memoir: 'Apocalypse Me'!

NEW YORK—In the world ready for a memoir called "Apocalypse Me"? Maybe it is by Charlie Sheen. The recently fired star of the CBS sitcom "Two and a Half Men" wants to tell his controversial life story, said sources at three publishing houses who asked not to be identified. "Two of the publishers said Thursday that the book had the working title "Apocalypse Me," a reference to "Apocalypse Now," the Francis Ford Coppola film starring Sheen's father, Martin Sheen. AP

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Cebu rape case docu in NY fest

(First of two parts)

LOS ANGELES—"Give Up Tomorrow," which chronicles the trial of Francisco Juan "Paco" Larrañaga—who was arrested in 1997 for the murder of two teenage sisters in Cebu—makes its debut as an official selection in the 10th Tribeca Film Festival.

The film, directed by Michael Collins, who also produced it with Marly Ilyana, is among the 11 entries competing in the World Documentary section of the festival launched by Robert de Niro, Jane Rosenthal and Craig Hatkoff. Twelve films are also vying in the World Narrative section in the festival which runs from April 20 to May 1, in lower Manhattan. Festival organizers announced that the selections were made from a record number of 5,029 submissions.

Collins, Iglesia and cinematographer Joshua Weinstein followed the trial of Paco who, with six others, were convicted of the kidnap, rape and murder of Sharlyn and Jacqueline Chiong. The Larrañaga family and friends insist the innocence of Paco, who they claim was in Manila when the crime happened. Paco is serving a double-life term in San Sebastian—an account of a prisoner exchange treaty between Spain and the Philippines. Paco, a dead ringer of the two executives, was 19 years old at the time of his arrest. He was previously held up the love-riddled Princess in Mozambique City.

Marly is Paco's brother in law. In an e-mail interview, he answered our questions about how this close relationship with Paco decided the approach that he and Michael would take from the get-go.

Marly, who moved from the Philippines to New York in 2000, described the film, thus: "Simultaneously a murder mystery and an exposé of endemic corruption in post-Marcos Philippines, 'Give Up Tomorrow' looks extensively at the trial of Paco. ... Capturing how a voracious media circus stoked ethnic and class hatred to prejudice public perception, the film reveals the extraordinary judicial violations that resulted in Paco's death sentence. Intertwining from Paco's cell exposes the appalling conditions of Filipino prisons, where Guantanamo looks like Iran's Evin Prison."

The docu, six years in the making, was shot in Cebu, Manila, San Francisco, LA, New York, London, Barcelona, Madrid and San Sebastian.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rinbert V. Nagtalon

FRANCISCO Juan "Paco" Larrañaga, subject of the docu produced by his brother-in-law

Cebu rape case . . .

From page 8

Michael, who makes his full-length feature film debut with "Give ...," is the founder of Thoughtful Robot, a production company dedicated to making social justice films that promote change. Lisa Frai, Ito, Marty and the film's editor, Ishi Meneguar, participated in Sundance Institute's Documentary Edit and Story Lab, which supports filmmakers during post-production.

For one intensive week, the trio worked on "Give ..." and met with established editors and directors, including Sundance founder Robert Redford, who discussed the rough cut and gave feedback. Coincidentally, Fil-Am director Ramona Diaz, who serves as the film's executive producer, also attended the lab with her own film, "The Learning."

We met Marty, Michael and Jessica for the first time at the Sundance Film Festival several years ago. Recalled Marty in one e-mail exchange: "We were still in production ... then and couldn't talk openly about the film. It's great that, three years later ... we're doing our first interview with you for this film. To have our world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York, our hometown, is a dream come true."

Excerpts from our interview

How did you get involved in telling this story?

Michael Collins (MC): In 2009, Pam was sentenced to life in prison. He appealed to the Supreme Court and his family patiently waited for the decision, conditions he would be released. But in 2008, the Supreme Court elevated his sentence to death by lethal injection. That's when I got involved. Marty's brother told me the situation and asked if I could make a web animation depicting the injustices that Pam suffered during his trial.

Before agreeing, I did as much research as possible. I was given a letter by "The Unheard 57"—Dara's witnesses who were with him in Manila when the Olong sisters were missing in Cebu. Most of them were never allowed to testify. The letter expressed their courage and frustration with the judge, the media, and the Philippine public who had turned against them.

The injustices I read about were shocking. I learned that Pam was 19 and had just moved to Manila when he was put in jail, where he had been for seven years at that point. The letter moved me to tears. I was the same age as Pam and had just moved to New York City seven years earlier. I thought about how much I had experienced ... in those years. I couldn't imagine how it must have been for him and his family. I felt an instant connection to him and a sense of responsibility to help him find justice.

Although I had never made a film before, I believed in the power of documentaries and knew that that was our best chance of getting his story out in the world. So Marty and I decided to take a leap of faith and soon found ourselves on our way to the Philippines armed with a new camera, some microphones ... filled with hope.

(Exclusive interview)

SUNDANCE institute's Robert Redford (second from right) and Cara Mertes with "Give Up Tomorrow" filmmakers (from left) Michael Collins, Eric Metzger and Marty Syjuco (brother-in-law of Pam Larrinaga). The three attended the Sundance Documentary Edit and Story Lab, during which they received directions—and encouragement—as they made the film.

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: RANGO
2: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
3: THE EAGLE
4: NEVER LET ME GO / RED RIDING HOOD
5: SAW 3D / WHO'S THAT GIRL
6: RED RIDING HOOD
7: HOW DO YOU KNOW?

GREENHILLS 1

1: WHO'S THAT GIRL
2: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU

GREENHILLS 2

1: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
2: RED RIDING HOOD
3: THE EAGLE
4: RANGO
5: HOW DO YOU KNOW?

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: RED RIDING HOOD
2: RANGO
3: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
4: HOW DO YOU KNOW?
5: THE EAGLE

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1: RED RIDING HOOD
2: RANGO
3: HOW DO YOU KNOW?
4: WHO'S THAT GIRL

MARQUEE

1: RANGO
2: RED RIDING HOOD
3: HOW DO YOU KNOW? / I AM NUMBER FOUR
4: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU

MARKET! MARKET!

1: RED RIDING HOOD
2: RANGO
3: HOW DO YOU KNOW? / I AM NUMBER FOUR
4: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6: WHO'S THAT GIRL
7: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU

TRINOMA

1: WHO'S THAT GIRL
2: THE EAGLE
3: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
4: RANGO
5: HOW DO YOU KNOW?
6: SAW 3D / RED RIDING HOOD
7: RED RIDING HOOD

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ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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March 1-31 Sidewalk

MARKET! MARKET!
Imagine Valentines Live at Market! Market!
March 20
10:00 pm Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
CDL EXPO: An encompassing of the different Cebu Fiesta Festivities
Program of Fiestas: Fiesta Atlantis Tui
6:00 pm The Terraces

TRINOMA
Trino-Mini Fashion Week
March 10-13 | Activity Center

MARQUEE
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March 17 Activity Center

CINEMAS
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Armida is UP Film Institute's 'Diwata'

20th Int'l Women's Film Fest cites women in the indie film frontier

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

MARKED women is now a "goddess," too. Armida Siguion-Reyna is the recipient of this year's Diwata Award, to be given by the University of the Philippine Film Institute during the 20th International Women's Film Festival (IWFF) on March 16.

Festival theme this year is "Purple Poetic Women in the Indie Film Frontier," celebrating the new breed of women indiepen. dent filmmakers "who are creating innovative forms of expression, discourse, and liberation in the digital film medium."

Activities scheduled at the institute, located in UP Diliman, Quezon City, include screenings of independent films by women and the Diwata Award ceremony. The 2nd Women's Film Congress will also be held during the festival. Women indie filmmakers will share insights and viewpoints on the imaging of women in cinema.

Rina Bautista, IWFF co-chair, told reporters, "Armida Siguion-Reyna is a warrior in a lot of ways. She has contributed immensely to the movie industry in her capacities as actor, producer and former chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board."

As an actor, Siguion-Reyna played heroine and villainess "with equal intensity and humanity," Santiago noted. In 1975, Siguion-Reyna portrayed revolutionary heroine Gabriela Silang in "Diwata" (Lamberto Avellana), directed by Lino Brocka.

Siguion-Reyna has lent IWFF a copy of

ARMIDA Siguion-Reyna, heroine of Brocka's "Diwata"

"Diwata" for screening during the fest, 6 p.m., at the institute's Cine Adarna.

"Armida was ahead of her time. [In 'Diwata'] she plays a female warrior who led an army of men. It'll be a rare opportunity to catch this film," Santiago said.

Empowering women

Aside from lending up-to-Philippine-history, Siguion-Reyna told the theater in a previous interview that she also had in mind a "comeback-ending while shooting "Diwata."

She fell off the horse nine times. "Once, I injured a hacked wire by an inch. Everyone on the set panicked," recounted the actress, who also produced a period musical version of the film.

For the movie, Siguion-Reyna commissioned Sherie Triunfo to compose original music.

As boss of Seiyon Films, Siguion-Reyna championed movies that presented empowering images of women in cinema, Santiago pointed out.

"The films she produced had characters like a prostitute ("Gigapa ang Batong Mo sa Akin") and a victim of incest ("Inagaw Mo ang Labo sa Akin"), but they were portrayed as [strong] women beings. As producer, her vision was gender-sensitive," said Santiago.

As IWFF co-chair, Siguion-Reyna also established intrigue and daring, Santiago added. "She's a feisty advocate for freedom of expression. She fought against censorship and has high respect for artists."

Previous Diwata awardees are producers Charo Santos and Lily Monteverde, actors Vilma Santos, Stella Flores and Gina Pareño, scriptwriter Lualhati Bautista, and filmmakers Laurice Guillen, Marilou Diaz-Abaya and Olivia Lamasan.

Apart from "Diwata," films from Lebanon and the Czech Republic will be screened at the IWFF. Call 920-6865 or 926-2642 for details, or e-mail at mimi2004@yahoo.com.

31.90

Free show at Baywalk tonight

ANDREW E. Blakelyrik, the Go Girls and Jaynee Nicket perform tonight at 7 in a free concert at the Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard to cap the awarding ceremonies for this year's Manila Bay Summer Sea sports Festival.

Presented by Manila Broadcasting Company and the City of Manila, in cooperation with the Philippine Coast Guard, the festival features dragon boat racing as well as track and formula races for motorcycles.

SHOW TIME

'P-Pop Explosion'

"P-Pop Explosion" features three young groups: SUBR, Pop Girls and BPM, on April 1, 8 p.m. at Alon Theater, Star City Complex, Pasay.

All the performers, which describe their music as fresh Pinoy pop, are signed with Viva Records.

SUBR, a boy band whose name is a mondplay on "sweet" and "sweetness," is composed of members KJ Medrick, Rhodnik Tinsay, Sarkis del Rosario, Jethro Santos, Carlo Lacsina, Elbe Ramos, and twins Jiz and MM Magno.

The group's self-titled debut album was released in March last year.

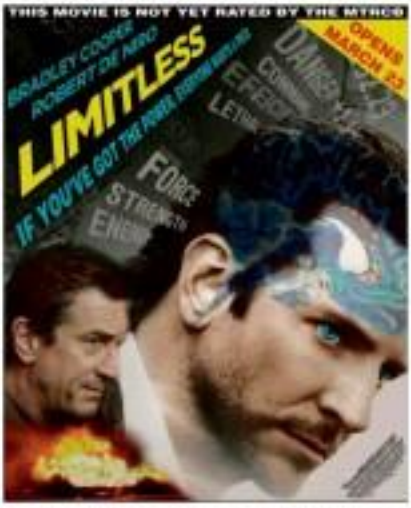
Pop Girls, formed last year, is a regular performer on CMA TV's Sunday morning show, "Party Pilipinas." Its members are Joanna Morales, Angelie Unpeso, Ichat Ignite, Rose Vergabel and Nadine Lustre.

The group also released its self-titled album recently.

BPM, or Beat Pinoy Music, is made up of Pio Balbuena, Earl Tuazo, Sam Puga, Yeyoy Garcia, Ana Lana, Orion Dap and Chris Salcedo.

Call 470-2222 or 000-9999 for details.

POP GIRLS



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Testy colleagues play you're-fired-I-quit game

MEA Alonzo

ANGEL Locsin

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 DANGO (2D)
12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00

2 RED RIDING HOOD (2D)
12:00, 2:00, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

3 WHEN IN DOUBT (2D)
11:45, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

4 ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45

I AM NUMBER FOUR (3D)
11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15

WHO'S THAT GIRL
11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15

Barnes and Friends Arts and Crafts
Shang Cineplex lobby
March 11 - 13

Shangri-La Plaza

Celebrity weekends

How do the Lloyd Cruz and Anne Curtis spend weekends? At a recent Greenwich pizza and pasta mobile launch, they revealed their friends' ...

Anne loves "boring lazy" and is happy to be free of makeup and spotlights. "I sleep the whole day and get out of bed late in the afternoon," she confessed.

For John Lloyd, Sunday is family day: "I make it a point to have Sunday lunch with my family. We eat out and catch up on our stories."

Asked about his last Valentine's Day with Shaina Magdayao, Lloyd's assistant to do-it-all-for-a-couple's-date: "Di ba work, I picked her up to attend Bitoy's ball, afterwards, we went for a movie."

Looks like celebs also savor the simple life. Sweet times.

Pinoy juror

ABS-CBN Mondo Radio Division Head Perry Mangat is a member of the prestigious New York Festivals Radio Programs and Promotion Awards Grand Jury. It is his third time on the panel. The only judge from the Philippines, Mangat joins other international experts in evaluating entries from radio stations, networks and independent producers around the world. The awards gala will be held on June 3 in New York City.

Sawsaw and Siboli

Jun Nis Olivelí "El Bimbo" is back in the movie-to-comedy mode. "Mahjong Ho ... Mehn"—with Smokey Manaloto.

Manaloto plays Mike, a provincianic who goes to Manila in search of his relatives. He ends up to the mansion of Don Emilio, a rich Chinese businessman played by Eddie Garcia, along with John, played by Mark Anthony Fernandez.

"Mahjong Ho" directed by Jose B. Gabayeni, opens in 500 cinemas nationwide on Wednesday.

Top of the Tabloids

The top shots hit street in the Bicolano tabloid Bandera. Cute! Why we are moved if we are moved.)

• Sabi ni pumalakpak ng bin ni Phil Pumphrahimal. Angelina Pumpalina Hagdelorenzo ako! (Incidentally, she has a new, dramatic endorsement—to that the reason for all the commotion?)

• Bulalo ng Akkad bin ni Phil kay Angelina: "Ping nung pakialamin si Phil." (Ito ano ad tips! Dito it's worth. Bilhin yan, gets na kaya?)

• Angel Locsin. Hindi ako pinapansin si Phil. (Uh, that didn't come out right.)

• Marina palanto. Sangalan Singsar ng

CHRISTIAN Bautista

(nadulog mo. Kada sigaw ng pasahulan.)

• Ben Ang Zaragoza: Sinong mo ako ni Angelinamo mga Ito? ("Ano ang sabi ni?")

• Christian Bautista: Sigaw ng Kris Aquino. (Does he know?)

• Jinkee Tap ngay Jiguron si Sarah Geronimo. (Does her manchester?)

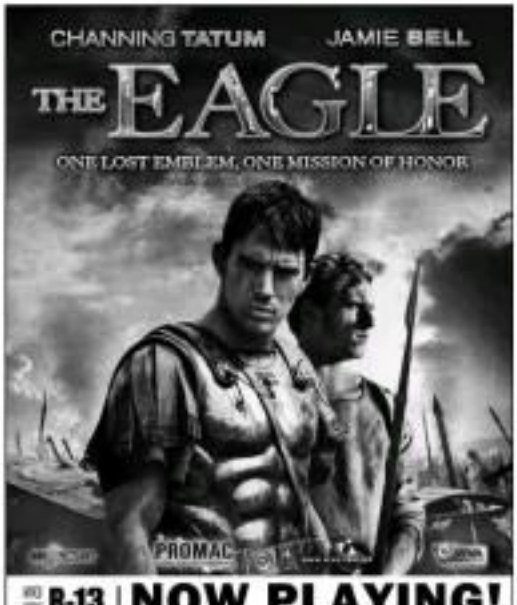
• Cesca Sandi Sotohemap ang love life? (Sabi nila na.)

• Sinabi Bautista vs Chito Trinidad-Sarmiento na? (Ayan, artista.)

• Caption: Salabi magkaibaan na. (Uh, movie project announcement to Solenad?)

• Editor 7 Answer nang Zaragoza Ang Shangs, Anik mata pa ang bagong boyfriend. (Ganun pala.)

• Ito human with ni Kris James mag-ani ng 1982 87? (Is co-ed ceremonial?)



ANGELICA Panganiban

Testy colleagues play you're-fired-I-quit game

By the Entertainment Staff

SO NOW they're doing the "you're-fired-I-quit" routine. Charry Crisis insists it was a conversation; insiders have a different version.

Our inside says CC was a bit too candid for comfort, and someone close to Big Boss overheard CC making a brutally frank remark...about BB being a good friend, but not the best coworker. The rivals made sure the wayward customer reached BB's ears. Soon after, CC was reglven the marching orders.

Loose lips sink ships.

Not happily ever after

Penny Princess has realized that though she snagged Prince Charming, their fairy tale is not about to end "happily ever after". She complained to a friend that PC is preoccupied with all sorts of activities, on top of his demanding show biz schedule.

IW is not happy that the busy guy in our PC. Maybe PC is playing sports with other gorgeous princes, ouch.

Aging Hunk's past

Aging Hunk cannot move on from his hated past behind. When he was younger, AH was a stool pusher, peddling his wares along Recto.

When he joined show biz, he merely moved his business to a bigger pond. Among his former clients were Makati, Singapore and Hong Kong businessmen.

Now that he has lost his youth, AH still can't give it up. Longtime Friend was shocked when AH asked for contact numbers of rich gays he could run to the United States.

Can't teach old dogs new tricks.

Arrogant Actor's secret

No wonder Arrogant Actor was difficult to work with, Young Director complained.

IED's beleaguered project was bank-rolled by AH's alleged Gay Lover. AH acted as if he was the producer himself, demanding special accommodations.

AH insisted on staying in character throughout the shoot and forced creators to go along for the ride. Problem was, he was playing a jerk.

Directors now refuse to accept projects with AS as star and CE as producer. AH was previously linked to Gay Director.

Short shorts

Perhaps the rumors about former theaterdoll's gender were true all along.

TEXT'S

RUSHES

PHIL Youngmisuksri

SHOWBIZ Musicals

JUN "Mr. Shush" Urbano

JOHN Lloyd Cruz and Bea Cariño with Globe events marketing director Lois Velasco III.

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Vacancy Announcement No. FAOPH/ 2011-03

Issued on : 12 March 2011
Deadline For Application : 26 March 2011

Position Title : National Socio-economist
Duration : Consistent with UN established rules for this type of work to be performed
Remuneration : Consistent with UN established rules for this type of work to be performed
Organizational Unit : FAO Philippines
Duty Station : Manila, Philippines
Duration : 3 months on part-time or when actually employed basis

In the context of the implementation of the project TCP/PHI/3302 National Capacity Building for Land Degradation Assessment and Climate Change Adaptation," the FAO Representation in the Philippines is seeking to recruit a National Socio-economist.

1. DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the FAO Representative in the Philippines and the technical supervision of Technical Officers in FAO Headquarters and Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in consultation with relevant government agencies, non-government organizations and other national and international organizations concerned, and in close cooperation with other consultants, the consultant will:

- collect and review the existing socio-economic data related to land use and land degradation with specific attention to the characteristics and properties relevant to the implementation of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands – World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies Mapping Questionnaire (LADA-WOCAT QM);
- interact with the Philippines Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands – Technical Working Group (PHILADA-TWG) members and other consultants and facilitate in developing the national field cover, land use, and land degradation maps and sustainable land use and management practices strategies;
- participate in at least one land degradation survey;
- participate in planned workshops and prepare inclusive and training materials;
- assist in preparation of project reports; and
- carry out any other related duties upon request by FAO.

2. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Advanced university degree in economics, agriculture economics, sociology and or relevant disciplines;
- At least 10 years of professional work experience in the relevant fields;
- Clear and analytic writing skills (English).

Interested applicants are requested to complete the FAO Personal History Form available at http://www.fao.org/vacancies/hrs.asp and send their application with cover letter by mail, fax or email to:

FAO Representation in the Philippines
20th Floor, Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Fax No.: (632) 8910002
E-mail: FAO-PH@fao.org

Indicating the Vacancy No. and Post Title on or before 26 March 2011. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for the interview.

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- Can work with minimum supervision

CHANNEL EDITOR

- College graduate, preferably major in Journalism
- At least 5 years experience as Editor for news organization or in related job
- Highly energetic, motivated, and proactive with minimum supervision
- Willingness work the long hours and irregular
- Familiarity with latest Internet trends and technologies
- Computer Skills: Communication Skills, Writing Skills, Passionate, Skills, Interpersonal Skills

ART DIRECTOR

- College graduate, preferably Major in Fine Arts or B.S. Architecture
- At least 3 years experience
- Knowledgeable in layout writing, web layout and design
- Preferably with multimedia/web experience or with basic knowledge of web standards
- Experienced in Content Management System (Wordpress, Joomla, Drupal)
- Creative, with the ability to execute web design concept
- Able to communicate effectively and with good problem solving skills
- Must be a team player

MULTIMEDIA REPORTERS

- College graduate, preferably major in Journalism or Communication Arts
- At least 1 year experience in a newsroom or related job
- Computer Skills, Communication Skills, Writing Skills, Interviewing Skills, Research Skills, Team player
- Willingness to work on irregular hours

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

- College graduate, preferably B.S. Computer Science, Information Technology
- At least 2 years experience in a related job
- Knowledge in Linux System Administration and Security, Project Management System (PHP/MySQL, LAMP, Basic OOP, Development)
- Cisco Certified Network Associate
- Expertise in Network Management
- Software and hardware maintenance
- Familiar with language: Bash, PHP

WEB DEVELOPER / PROGRAMMER

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Vacancy Announcement No: FAOPH: 2011-02

Issued on : 12 March 2011
Deadline For Application : 26 March 2011

Project Title	: National Vegetation and Land Cover Specialist	Remarks	: Consistent with UN established rules for the type of work to be performed
Organizational Unit	: FAO Philippines	Duty Station / Essence	: Manila, Philippines / 6 months on post-base or when actually employed basis

In the context of the implementation of the project TCP/PHC/3302 "National Capacity Building for Land Degradation Assessment and Climate Change Adaptation," the FAO Representation in the Philippines is seeking to recruit a National Vegetation and Land Cover Specialist.

1. DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the FAO Representative in the Philippines and the technical supervision of Technical Officers in FAO Headquarters and Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in consultation with relevant government agencies, non-government organizations and other national and international organizations concerned, and in close cooperation with other consultants, the consultant will:

- collect and review the existing national vegetation and land cover information with specific attention to the characteristics and properties relevant to the implementation of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands - World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies Mapping Questionnaire (LADA-WOCAT QM);
- interact with the Philippines Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands – Technical Working Group (PHILADA-TWG) members and other consultants and facilitate in developing the national land cover, land use, and land degradation maps;
- participate in at least one local assessment survey;
- participate in planned workshops and prepare lectures and training materials;
- assist in preparation of project reports; and
- carry out any other related duties upon request by FAO.

2. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Advanced university degree in agronomy, soil science, natural resource management, and/or relevant disciplines.
- At least 10 years of professional work experience in the relevant fields.
- Clear oral and written working skills (English).

Interested applicants are requested to complete the **FAO Personal History Form** available at http://www.fao.org/employment/pha.asp and send their application with cover letter by mail, fax or email to:

FAO Representation in the Philippines
20th Floor, Yuchengco Tower
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Fax No: (632) 9810852
E-mail: FAO-PH@fao.org

indicating the Vacancy No. and Post Title on or **before 26 March 2011**. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for the interview.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Vacancy Announcement No: FAOPH: 2011-01

Issued on : 12 March 2011
Deadline For Application : 26 March 2011

Project Title	: National Agroecological Scientist	Remarks	: Consistent with UN established rules for the type of work to be performed
Organizational Unit	: FAO Philippines	Duty Station / Essence	: Manila, Philippines / 6 months on post-base or when actually employed basis

In the context of the implementation of the project TCP/PHC/3302 "National Capacity Building for Land Degradation Assessment and Climate Change Adaptation," the FAO Representation in the Philippines is seeking to recruit a National Agroecological Scientist.

1. DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the FAO Representative in the Philippines and the technical supervision of Technical Officers in FAO Headquarters and Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in consultation with relevant government agencies, non-government organizations and other national and international organizations concerned, and in close cooperation with other consultants, the consultant will:

- review the existing agronomic practices and investigate possible interventions for improvement and upscaling;
- based on the collected information, identify promising agronomic practices best suited for different agro-ecological zones;
- collect the available soil information with specific attention to the characteristics and properties relevant to the implementation of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands - World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies Mapping Questionnaire (LADA-WOCAT QM);
- participate in at least one local assessment survey;
- interact with the Philippines Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands – Technical Working Group (PHILADA-TWG) members and other consultants and facilitate in developing the suitable interventions of transferring sustainable production and resource conservation technologies to the end-users;
- participate in planned workshops and prepare lectures and training materials;
- assist in preparation of project reports; and
- carry out any other related duties upon request by FAO.

2. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Advanced university degree in agronomy, soil science, natural resource management, and/ or relevant disciplines.
- At least 10 years of professional work experience in the relevant fields.
- Clear oral and written working skills (English).

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In support the **Conduct of Operations Research in Integrating Risk Based Health Services in the Local Health Systems**

Purpose

The complexity of socio-behaviors of Filipino men continue to plagues the national HIV situation. While past administrations of prevention programmes demonstrated effectiveness, a sustained model of provision of a spectrum of services ranging from prevention to care, treatment, and cure that is effective, delivered in a non-stigmatized environment is evident.

Objectives:

To contribute to the reduction of HIV risk taking behaviors among MSM by institutionalizing an enabling male sexual health services in health services of Manila City and Quezon City, Philippines

Specific Objectives of this TOR:

1) To support the selected research office / operations research in integrating Sexual Health into Local Health Systems
2) Development the operational guidelines and capacity building plan for health service providers including community-based organizations for planned scaling-up

Please forward your concept notes with budget and timeline to AIDS Society of the Philippines, 29F II-M Building #11 San Francisco St., South Triangle, Quezon City 1103 or email to info@aidssociety.com.ph. Deadline of submission is March 15, 2011.

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Sykes' Philippines launches Career Hub

A TYPICAL SCENE IN CALL CENTER recruitment drives involves long queues of applicants waiting to make inroads in the career based in public transport terminals. Such conditions are not conducive for applicants who can actually affects their focus and consequently the results of their applications.

For outsourcing company's call center company Sykes' Philippines decided, the best way of hiring the right people begins with a positive recruitment experience. As such, the company constantly streamlines their recruitment process to make it a challenging-but-fun experience, while at the same time elevating attention to improving the overall applicant experience.

Last January, Sykes' opened its first permanent Career Hub at One Global Bgard Avenue (OGBA) Building in Pasig City. The OGBA Career Hub is unique in that it was built primarily with the comfort of applicants in mind. Working it into a lounge instead of the usual holding room for applicants, the Sykes' OGBA Career Hub offers a range of amenities not typical of recruitment centers.

The two-story facility features comfy seats on sofas, padded chairs and coffee tables. There is a reading nook filled with books, magazines, and daily newspapers in white away the time. A section of the OGBA Career Hub has a set of desktop computers where applicants can freely surf the internet or check on the latest news, their personal emails or update their online networking accounts. Refreshments (P 175 are provided for non-screening processes. Additionally, applicants are also treated to a variety of snacks and beverages, the area near the cake that is the Sykes' recruitment mascot.

According to the Human Resources, Sr. Director, Human Resources and Recruiting & Communications, the concept behind the Career Hub was born out of their experiences in hosting recruitment drives in a huge majority of their locations. "We wanted to become efficient in the way that we conducted people interviews much of our roles and accounts that every specific requirements. At the same time, we noticed that the application process was generally quite difficult for many potential recruits."

She adds: "We also know that the uncertainty of waiting is very stressful, and that it can affect the applicant's focus. By making it more comfortable for applicants to apply, the easier will attract, they go through the recruitment process and will hopefully contribute to positive interview results. We also want them to share their recruitment experience to Sykes' will inform us the help we intend we're applying with us."

While this is the first Career Hub that Sykes' has put up, the company has plans to open other similar facilities in key locations. The goal is to be able to maximize their sites and open more opportunities for prospective employees, Dee emphasizes.

Sykes' has shown to 10,000 employees and is still growing. According to Dee, "the Sykes' OGBA Career Hub is just one way we are modernizing our recruitment system. more streamlined and efficient, while at the same time ensuring that our applicants go through an even all positive recruitment experience."

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Gifts and Graces is a social enterprise that empowers livelihood communities by providing market access. Gifts and Graces also engages these communities through product development and capability building to help them improve their sales and income. We are looking for a dynamic

Marketing Manager

to join our team. The Marketing Manager will report directly to the Executive Director.

Overall Objectives

Responsible for developing and maintaining marketing strategies to meet organizational objectives. Conducts and evaluates market research, evaluates market conditions and lists, prepares marketing plans based on them. Oversees all marketing and promotional staff and activities.

Responsibilities:

- Develop annual sales and marketing plans
- Conceptualizes, executes, coordinates marketing activities
- Develops online presence and sales
- Manages the marketing budget, ensures delivery of marketing results
- Achieves business results and positive media coverage
- Manages the entire product life cycle from strategic planning to market and sales. Includes pricing strategies, market research and quarterly market requirement analysis
- Maintains relationships with key clients
- Actively seeks and identifies potential partner relationships for Gifts and Graces product lines
- Manages the Gifts and Graces retail space including its shaping, promotions, ordering inventory, troubleshooting, supervising regular visits to the store
- Oversees the hiring, training, monitoring, and appraisal of sales associates

Relationships and Roles:

- Liaises and cooperate with all stakeholders – company employees, partner communities, clients, donors and supporters
- Work closely with the Gifts and Graces design team on product development

Job Specifications:

- 3-5 years of sales experience in marketing i.e. in charge/in-charge of developing and implementing marketing strategies to meet organizational objectives
- Experience in retail an advantage
- Strong understanding of customer and market dynamics and requirements
- Proven ability to oversee all marketing, advertising and promotional staff and activities
- Graduate of business or marketing course

To apply, please send your CV to: gftsmdirector@yahoo.com.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP Philippines is inviting qualified candidates to fill the following post. Details are available in our website http://www.undp.org.ph/jobs1

- **PROJECT MANAGER FOR PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE BUREAU**

The Philippines is home to more than 31,000 endemic species of plants and animals, including 5[illegible] bird species ([illegible] % endemic), 2[illegible] reptile species ([illegible] % endemic), 1[illegible] mammal species ([illegible] % endemic) and 1[illegible] amphibian species (70 % endemic). There are five major areas of the world known as centers of endemism, ranging in size from 1,000 to [illegible],000 sq km, which, for example, has at least 21 endemic species of mammals, its tiny Camiguin Island (250 km²) which has at least four species of endemic mammals. The Philippines has among the highest rates of species discovery in the world (almost one species of mammals have been discovered in the last ten years alone).

Given the presences of a growing population dependent on agriculture, and the constraints facing the NIPAS system, protecting the valuable biodiversity wealth solely through an expansion pattern of protected areas is unfeasible. The ultimate goal of the project therefore is to ensure that activities in the production landscape conserve species assemblages and maintain ecosystem functions.

Hence, to ensure that activities in the production landscape conserve species assemblages and maintain ecosystem functions, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through UNDP has approved the project proposal in UNDP-GEF entitled "Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation Mainstreaming in Local Agricultural Landscapes". The project will likewise build on existing initiatives in certain[illegible] of palawan, such as [illegible] Conservation Areas, LGUs and other concerned stakeholders in identified project sites.

To ensure that the objectives under the Project are implemented accordingly, a Project Manager will be hired.

Scope of Work/Duties of Responsibility:

Under the overall guidance of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, the Project Manager is expected to ensure smooth implementation of project activities towards the achievement of expected project outputs. He/She will be expected to supervise staff and manage collaboration with project partners and other stakeholders. The Project Manager is expected to prepare periodic work plans and budgets as well as ensure monitoring of project's progress. He/she is expected to network with various local and national stakeholders and coordinate with donors for updating and reporting purposes.

Summary of Key Functions:

Provision of reliable and secure driving services by:

- Programme Implementation
- Financial Management

Qualifications:

EDUCATION: Post graduate degree in the field of natural sciences

EXPERIENCE: At least 10 years of combined relevant experience in development work, biodiversity conservation and natural resource management/protected protects; at least 5 years of which in Program management including administration, finance, and supervisory work; preferably in national and/or regional (multi-country) projects and foreign-assisted projects.

The selected candidate will receive a salary that is commensurate with his/her background and work experience. Interested applicants are required to complete the UN Personal History Form (P.11) available in our website http://www.undp.org.ph/jobs1 and send to [illegible]@undp.org.ph on or before **25 March 2011**. Kindly note that only completed P.11 forms will be reviewed. UNDP is an equal opportunity employer. Please note that we will contact only the short-listed candidates.

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WORKING PEOPLE

Editor Jonel Francis M. Balbuquilla

Smarter systems make smarter people

I JUST CAME BACK FROM a week's stay in Bangkok. It's natural to wonder to me why Bangkok is becoming more progressive as it host the same time how is Singapore. Both Singapore and Bangkok share the hottest airports in the part of the world, with tourists numbering over 10 million a year, roughly 10 times more than our have in the Philippines. Ironically, the people in these areas are not as friendly and hospitable to the Filipinos. In fact, Filipinos speak better English (Dateline Thailand and Singaporean) in the land—code-speak, traditions, and delivery, etc.

Study in contrast

For one's sense against survival, Singapore and Thailand rank high in world competitiveness while the Philippines usually is at the top end of the list. Thailand has received the Nikkei Direct Investments (FDI) than the Philippines per while Singapore has 20 times more. For capita GDP is $55,600 for Singapore, $5,300 for Thailand, and $3,700 for the Philippines. How can we explain this?

Many experts say that the problem is the attitude of the Filipinos while I do not wish to argue against this theory, I wish to speak in behalf of the Filipinos who might have a (generally) better attitudes than the rest of the Singaporeans I've met. My friend who has lived in Singapore for some time tells me that our problem is not so much the people's attitude as the lack of systems that facilitate the people's progress.

Systemic solutions

Singapore and Bangkok rely on systemic solutions to address many of their problems. For example, to relieve how many times during rapid mass transport system, the driverless monorail system for greater ease of information and practice.

Yeh, a "Pad Sachin-Sook which I saw in Bangkok formally the money terrible of Thailand. But they have "Saturday Thailand," a seamless system that encourages tourism, despite high incidences of AIDS in the country. Dalamanta ay... The high-end area is Ratchaprasong where I stayed for several five- and six-star hotels and malls that cater to discriminating tastes. If shopping at the Center Point or Big C is not enough, explore in the high end stores one day. The Siri Pad to Prathadnam or go to low-end local dealer by bookending the note it can Chit Gate to Mo Chit and enjoying the several hectares of a variety of products and services under one roof—cotton, second adjoining seats, like the shopping, one will surely want a relaxing Chao Phraya dinner cruise or a leisurely-paced Thai massage.

The transport system of Singapore is a wonder. With one-fifth the land area of the Philippines, Singapore has 20 times more roads than the Philippines. Its MRT and LRT systems are interconnected. At one point, your bus or train, you are now nearly reminded by an LED board that announces the provider number of minutes before a train or bus shall arrive at your station. These are ultimate possibilities by means that companies like BMI employ to cities who choose to be smarter.

Urbanization

As we write today, half of the world's population lives in cities. Urbanization is increasing every of life. In four decades, the city dwellers all over the world will double. This single most important phenomenon will give rise to immense complexities, appropriate with issues, including inefficiencies and unnecessary expenses that will challenge governments and business leaders in generations.

Some of the unintended consequences of urbanization will pose tremendous problems for affordable systems solutions. Many cities will confront water shortages, energy consumption will result from managers drawn fuller more infrastructure. Traffic congestion will result in more than Rs. 10 GDP to cities produce 80% of the world's total carbon emissions. Cities can remain unaffected unless a good ill-suited system of identifying, studying, monitoring and apprehending offenders can be broken.

To address the emerging challenges we can cities in the most we to Cities means a by-product—efficiencies to usually increase their capacity or improve individual systems. To transform these systems, we must start building a [illegible] Phase, one city at a time, or transform cities into a more integrated system. This transformation has to effectively creating seven New York Times every year. IBM experts suggest that we "begin to see cities and manage them as the complex systems they are, capitalizing on how to better understand and operate the interactions between systems and analyze urban data for better decisions and more targeted, holistic urban management."

Best practices

Many governments today are trying to support existing populations with a wide aging infrastructure and systems that will not be able to address the problems of today with the infusion of modern. On the other hand, there are a few cities that have been able to leverage technology to be more innovative solutions.

For example, Switzerland Railways analyzes more than 10,000 different variables, including patterns of use and passenger demand, to assemble and deploy more than 1,000 trains a day. It is able to do this with 99% accuracy (down by 6 percent), with an unprecedented annual savings of 10 million.

In China, car ownership has quadrupled in a few years. China now contributes significantly to the carbon emission that has threatened the global environment. The city of Hangzhou, China, recently announced that it, thanks to for the country's model city for environmental protection and low development. By leveraging Internet-of-Things initiatives that help reduce emissions, conserve energy and increase water supplies, Hangzhou hopes to become a "smarter city" that will improve the environment and the business, and a model city for others in China and around the world.

China control is a major problem in many cities. The New York City Police Department has closed the Real Time Crime Center, which combines capacities more than 120 million 911 criminal complaints, 33 years of criminal records and 25 billion public records, for sophisticated analytics and custom capabilities make connections among seemingly disparate. And the most Crime Center has been a key factor in a 27 percent reduction in crime in New York City since 2001. How we'll it now [illegible] the Police Department [illegible] the Little large city in the USA today.

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Reinventing the wheel

In many parts of the world today, there are local governments (like [illegible] Metro) knowledge and support systems to transform themselves into Smarter Cities that create livelihood and progress for the people. Many of these cities have already created "Innovation Boards" composed of government and private persons that draw up transformation initiatives and implement projects to help achieve these objectives.

We don't have to reinvent the wheel. There are models all over the world that Filipino leaders and governments can use to improve our cities. Singapore has mastered its traffic problems by making its contingent upon the [illegible] and congestion. "Our aim is to make Singapore's public transportation system so robust the need [illegible] automobile and [illegible] good is to be able to communicate effectively with native speakers, we need to read using context. English in our day-to-day interactions, we need to start using it more often.

For teachers, here's something to think about. The next time you have to [illegible] a lesson, ask yourself these basic questions: What is the difference between the academic English we teach in school and the way these native speaking texts use the language? Are we preparing our students for the [illegible] the situation the clients, and even the discussion they are and then ask yourself, "What is the role of the English teacher? What is the desired outcome for my students?"

The formal education system is very relevant. The general goal is to enable students to [illegible] English here. Students are used to read [illegible] more on teaching students to use the language functionally in [illegible] situations. Whether or not they know how to identify a present perfect progressive sentence is much less important than knowing how and to [illegible] the language in context. A suggest we rethink our educational goals with regard to English teaching in school. Or discuss the issues in English Classes.

English fluency is a competitive advantage, and right now it's an advantage. But if we don't act soon, we will lose the lead.

While we're waiting for our combined nationwide approach, we can take the national proficiency level dramatically to as little as 1 year in 2. If you are a teacher, are you a responsible professional, but more importantly, [illegible] Filipinos? I would love to hear your thoughts on the matter.

(Michael Brown can be reached at michaelb@gmail.com, or through his Internet website www.englishcom.)

Gospel: Mt. 4: 1 - 11

At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: 'Thy Lord, your God shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'"

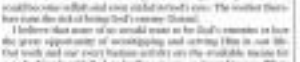
Choosing God

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SOB, DD

JESUS HAS STRONG WORDS AGAINST THOSE WHO MISSET their wrongdoings and events in their life and in the world and not that of God. He even calls us to persons "Satan." He doubt needs us that, it is God alone whom we should worship and serve. It is important therefore that we examine ourselves whether we are really God's.

Our truth is one of the great areas in our life where we encounter our being God-centered. The time, energy, attention, knowledge and skills, relationships almost all of our being that we employ or have at work, should be on God's side, and not on Satan's. Any reason or motivation in working who he is not for God's glory is, if we simply apply Jesus' words, referred to by Him "Get away, Satan!". The moment we acknowledge that we are working for God's glory, and not for the convenience of his family but does not include in the intention or news and plenty the Lord, he falls short of doing God's will. For first, the apparently good and human reasons in working are not satisfactory. Every human activity must be done so as to God worship and serve to the Lord. Jesus said, "Thy Lord, your God shall you worship," to "per-human" or, supernatural value and meaning. What could be more is that the human activity, when are spiritually motivated, could become selfish and even sinful in God's eyes. The truthful theologian state the risk of being God's enemy (Satan).

I believe that many of us would want as he God's enemies or lose the great opportunity of succeeding and serving Him in our life. Our truth and our every human activity are the available means for us to be friends with God, to be His servants and worshippers. What ever kind of work we undertake would always bring us to God, or bring God to us. We just have to choose Him as our Lord and Master.



Secret of happiness

By Teresa R. Tuteg, OCDS

DETERMINATION OF JOB APPLICANTS often look for workers who are honest, hardworking, competent, reliable, and equipped with skills that will make them do their job well and serve the company's aims. Hardly do they demand loyalty of the workers. Indeed, if a worker do, their only motive for loyalty is his remaining faithful to the company, not betraying it, like getting more in service, or backbiting the employer etc. That kind of loyalty would suffice if all the worker cares to be is a parts of that company that's not enough God, if the company is a good one and truly takes care of its employees' needs.

But there's a different kind of loyalty more profound, more far-reaching, more satisfying is possible. and is, in fact, worth cultivating. It's worker must find both success and happiness at work. It is the loyalty that Jesus demonstrates in today's gospel. Hungry from a three-day fast in the desert, He struggled on many temptation. As result of being the temptor's foil, Jesus gives many lessons to you and ... The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." Jesus is loyal to God. It is this loyalty that enables us to devote ourselves to things beyond our private or selfish needs. We cannot be fulfilled and happy if we live only for ourselves, we need this loyalty to the company, or workers and we human beings.

Today, test yourself how loyal you are. Think of your family, friends, co-workers, employers, community, church, country, and for each item, ask yourself: "Do they better and obvious because of love. I have lived my life?" If you can honestly say "Yes" to all of these, you have the secret of true happiness.

English - A renewable resource

By Michael Brown

AS WE ALL KNOW, THE PHILIPPINES is the only country in the world where customer service when it comes to answering foreign business. That is our English-speaking workforce.

But how long will this lasting can we keep that advantage?

While we argue over which percentage to use at the medium of instruction in school, our future employers are voting with their feet. At the national level, they are spending money and developing programs to improve their staff. Across the globe, companies are importing Filipino English teachers, or sending their students here, for training. Sure, that's a source of cash right now, but what will we do when all these countries no longer want to go, because they speak better English than we do? It may be a few years down the road, but that day is not as far away as we might think.

Our call center industry is booming. Around half a million Filipinos are employed in call centers or customer-service, and that number is expected to grow big.

The supply of call center quality is not infinite. Even the Philippines has for the most part, been saturated. Those who speak English at the level these companies require are already working in the industry. Even more call centers are learning the law when it comes to the level of English skills they require from new hires, and training is becoming more common. It takes years to produce graduates with the level of skills that they will think we're doing it. We need a plan.

We already consider English to be a key to be a worldwide business language, but we want to think that it's also a phenomenally valuable resource. Like sunlight. We want to think that until new generation will just have to and that's not the case anymore. But don't see a endless area. We need to start thinking of English, not only as a immediate resource, but also as a resource that can be lost. A resource that can die out if we don't cultivate and protect it.

Here's a question. Why is it for students in many countries, like Japan, study English in school from Grade 1 to college, but never seem achieve any degree of fluency? Or a written resource? Or a written resource? Because they don't see English as a resource since the resource of English, but they can't actually use the language well enough to express their answers verbally.

This happens because English is taught by school graduates as subject, knowledge, but not functional skill. As a native English speaker, I didn't learn English in my classroom in school. I learned it subconsciously as a child. At 3 years old I could already converse in fluent English. I would use fairly complex tenses to talk about events, but I didn't know what tenses were. I knew how to use "until", "unless" and "because", but I had no idea what a conjunction was. Then, when I went to school, I learned about the technical structure of English. In other words, I didn't learn how to speak English in school (because I already knew how to do that), I learned it so that I could use it effectively. Learning English in school helps to become a better English speaker. Learning English in order to speak English is the key.

To address the emerging challenges we can cities in the most we to Cities means a by-product—efficiencies to usually increase their capacity or improve individual systems. To transform these systems, we must start building a [illegible] Phase, one city at a time, or transform cities into a more integrated system. This transformation has to effectively creating seven New York Times every year. IBM experts suggest that we "begin to see cities and manage them as the complex systems they are, capitalizing on how to better understand and operate the interactions between systems and analyze urban data for better decisions and more targeted, holistic urban management."

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(Michael Brown can be reached at michaelb@gmail.com, or through his Internet website www.englishcom.)

MDG:F

Vacancy Announcement

MDG-F 1656: Financing Food Security and Nutrition for Children 6-24 Months Old in the Philippines, is a 3-year (Nov 2009-Nov 2012) Joint Programme (JP) involving UN agencies (UNICEF, FAO, ILO, WFP and IFAD), the Spanish Government, and the Philippine Government, with the National Nutrition Council as lead agency.

The programme has immediate need for the following posts:

(1) Field Programme Coordinator-Based in Region 8, working under the supervision of the Provincial Governor, Regional Coordinator for Eastern Visayas, and in coordination with the National Programme Coordinator (NPC), participating UN agencies and implementing partners from the national and local government units, with the following responsibilities:

1. Ensure that key procedures/systems within the JP (MDG-F 1656) are followed for achieving desired outputs based on approved work and financial plan and the Results Resource Framework.
2. Manage formulation of annual work plans and budget for the JP.
3. Oversee all technical, administrative and financial matters relating to the programme in close coordination with participating UN agencies and implementing partners, ensuring that partners work together to deliver the programme as per JP document and annual work plan.
4. Coordinate and liaise with government agencies concerned and the ISS and other international development agencies for programme implementation and possible convergence.
5. Facilitate implementation of MDG-F 1656 communication and advocacy plan, and M and E participatory monitoring and evaluation plan.
6. Forge links with other initiatives including joint programmes to identify best practices, and share lessons with partners.
7. Prepare required reports for MDG-F 1656.

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years progressive and practical experience in programme management and administration, preferably with a Master's Degree in nutrition, agriculture, development studies, economics and related fields; demonstrates leadership, good interpersonal skills as well as analytical and problem solving skills; excellent oral and communication skills in English and the local dialect; highly knowledgeable in MS Office software and internet.

(2) Programme Assistant to be based in Metro Manila, under direct supervision of the NPC, with the following responsibilities:

1. Assists in coordinating and liaising with key focal persons of the joint programme UN;
2. Assist the NPC in overseeing the delivery of the JP;
3. Provide overall administrative support to the Programme Management Unit (PMU);
4. Attend to admin requirements and manage records of the PMU;
5. Assist in monitoring physical/financial accomplishments of the JP.

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of progressive and professional related experience; graduate of four (4) year degree course preferably in management, development, or Arts, Organizational communication or related field; excellent oral and written communication skills in English; can work with minimum supervision; highly knowledgeable in MS Office software and internet; experience in working with government and ISS systems a distinct advantage.

Initial contract is for 6 months, extendable depending on performance. Send application letter and curriculum vitae (CV) with at least 3 references. Please address application to Secretariat Secretary Maria Bernadette T. Flores, DEBS III, Executive Director III, National Nutrition Council, 2nd Floor, PS Arcade Bldg., PTS Complex, Tagaytay City. Submit application or email to joel_vm@yahoo.com with subject title "Application – (post applied for)."

Deadline of application is on 17 March 2011, 5:00 pm. Only short-listed applicants will be called for exam and interview.

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WASH SPECIALIST
(Manila)
(JN Level: NO-1)

The Job: Under the guidance and direct supervision of the WASH Section Chief of Operations, duty post is accountable for formulations, design, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of WASH programme to ensure overall efficiency and effectiveness of the programme management, delivery and accomplishment of programmes goals and objectives.

The Profile: This temporary assignment is until 31 December 2011 only. We are looking for individuals with the ff qualifications:

- Advanced University degree or units of this degree relevant to the following areas: Public Health, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Ecology, Hydrology, Sanitation Engineering, or a field relevant to international WASH/Water development programs
- Additional training in Health Education or Communication for Development (Programme Communication), an asset
- Seven years or more work experience, five years of which are progressively responsible professional work experience in the UN or other international development organization, national government or the private sector. Field work experience.
- Background in working with Emergency preparedness and response and the HAC Cluster approach.

WASH OFFICER
(Catabato)
(JN Level: NO-1)

The Job: Under the technical guidance of the WASH Specialist, this post is accountable for professional technical contribution to programme/project design, planning, administration, monitoring and evaluation of WASH programme/project activities, data analysis and progress reporting, and provision of technical assistance for national counterparts in building its capacity in achievement of planned objectives, in the work area, aligned with country programme goals and coverage in Mindanao.

The Profile: This temporary assignment is until 31 December 2011 only. We are looking for individuals with the ff qualifications:

- University degree in one of the disciplines relevant to the following areas: Public Health, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Ecology, Hydrology, Sanitation Engineering, or a field relevant to international WASH/Water development programs. Additional post-graduate work experience will be considered.
- Additional training in Health Education or Communication for Development (Programme Communication), an asset
- Seven years or more work experience, two years of which are professional (office-based) work experience in the UN or other international development organization, national government and field work experience.
- Background/familiarity with Emergency preparedness and response and the HAC Cluster approach.
- Knowledge of a local dialect in Mindanao.

Fill in the post-majors literacy in English and Filipino, both written and oral and the ability to work in a multi-cultural environment. Pre-test for candidates who can proceed to the SHACE Core values in diversity and inclusion, integrity, and commitment. **Applications should be submitted on or before 30 March 2011** to the Human Resources Unit, UNICEF Philippines, 5th Floor, Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City (Attention: Ms. Ma. Theresa Mendoza) or via email to recruitment@unicef.org.ph. Please send your application by e-mail only to recruitment@unicef.org.

San Beda College
Basic Education Department
Highlands Points, Brgy. San Jose, Tanay, Rizal
www.sanbeda.edu.ph +632 660 4665 to 68
Fax to Email: (soon to be posted)

Invites applications for pre-school, grade school and high school teaching positions in the following subject areas:

English, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies (History and Economics), Filipino, Technology & Livelihood Education, MAPEH and Christian Living

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree from a reputable institution
- With teacher's license (LET passer)
- Preferably with teaching experience
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Loves children, challenges, can think out of the box, willing to collaborate and be involved in student activities

Interested applicants may submit the application letter (including names and contact numbers of character references), curriculum vitae and certified copy of transcripts, credentials and recent photo to:

The Principal
San Beda College, Basic Education Department
Highlands Points, Brgy. San Jose Tanay, Rizal
Applications may also be submitted on-line via: filmore_abs@yahoo.com

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- Must have handled projects worth at least Php 100 million
- Must be computer literate and have excellent communication skills
- Must be willing to travel

SALES ENGINEERS
- Male/Female, must be a graduate of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering or Architecture
- Must have at least 5 years of experience in sales
- Must have excellent communication skills
- Must be willing to travel

CAD OPERATORS
- Male/Female, must be a graduate of Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering or Architecture
- Must have at least 3 years of experience in CAD drafting
- Must be willing to travel

OPERATORS/TECHNICIANS
- Male/Female, must be a graduate of Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering or Architecture
- Must have at least 3 years of experience in construction
- Must be willing to travel

CHEMICAL ENGINEERS/CHEMISTS
- Male/Female, must be a graduate of Chemical Engineering or Chemistry
- Must have at least 3 years of experience in water and wastewater treatment
- Must be willing to travel

Kindly send us a resume with your most recent picture to recruitment@majorintl.com.ph or submit your resume personally together with your most recent picture at the Human Resources Department, Majors International Hotels Inc., 2nd Floor, Pioneer Center, Pioneer St. cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City. Contact us at 631-0000 for more details. Visit us at www.majorintl.com.ph

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PROPERTIES FOR FORECLOSURE AUCTION

Our Group of Companies invites everyone to bid at the public auctions for the foreclosure sale of the following properties:

TCT No.	Location	Type	Land Area in sq.m. (more or less)	Intended Mortgagee Bid (Php)	Date and Time of Auction	Place of Auction
T-19281 T-19698 T-20528	All located along the National Road within Brgy. Maputi, Municipality of Naawan, Province of Misamis Oriental. Approximately 2.6 km. northwest of Naawan Municipal Hall and Naawan Catholic Church.	Residential Land (with frontage to Mindanao Sea)	24,979 28,040 3,477	9,600,000	Mar. 24, 2011 10:00 a.m.	Entrance of the Office of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 44, Initao, Misamis Oriental
T-19290		Vacant Residential Land	15,289	2,000,000		
T-19389		Agricultural Land	28,584	5,600,000		
4450	East side of Transcentral Highway (Busay Rd.), Brgy. Busay (Upper), Cebu City. About 80 meters north from Mountainview Natures Park or 800 meters north from Busay National High School.	Vacant Residential Land	5,145	2,400,000	Mar. 31, 2011 9:00 a.m.	Regional Trial Court, Branch 17, 3rd Floor, Palace of Justice, Capitol Compound, Cebu City

All properties are to be sold on "As-is, Where-is" basis. Interested bidders are advised to conduct an independent evaluation of the property through the verification and investigation of the physical and legal condition of the property prior to the auction dates.

For further information, please contact us at (02) 891-7323 or send an email to foreclosedpropertiesgroup@yahoo.com

(PIN) March 13, 2011

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Field Office X
Regional Site, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City
http://www.dswd.gov.ph

NOTICE OF VALUE-FOR-VALUE SNAPPING

The Department of Social Welfare and Development is in possession of 1,512 sheets (20 kilograms) industrial sugar which we are offering to value for value swapping of roller steel goods needed during disaster relief operations, repacked parts, sugar coated with foil. Rudolfo Carday, Program Management Bureau, at telephone nos. 857-61-57 local 500-472.

(PIN) March 13, 13, 2011

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **DENNIS B. LABRADOR** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with **ESCITE INC.**

Any transactions made or entered by him on behalf of **ESCITE INC.** will not be honored by the company.

(PIN) March 13, 2011

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ADOPTION SAGE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF LOSS

1st National Forum in Service Contracting/ Outsourcing set

SERVICE CONTRACTING is the prevailing trend in the global marketing today. As the trend becomes more rapidly institutionalized, the outsourcing players should have a broad understanding of the legal aspects involved in outsourcing. They should have a good picture of the various issues and concerns that revolve around the outsourcing landscape.

Taking cognizance of this trend, the Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors, Inc. (PALSCON) will hold the 1st National Forum on Service Trends, One Rizal Park, Manila from 8:15 a.m. on March 17.

The one-day forum will feature keynote messages of Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, Department of Labor and Employment; Undersecretary Cristina Bautista, Chairman of the National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council; and Employment Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras, Chairman of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

Likewise, the keynote speakers are expected to be Secretary Emmanuel Joel Villanueva, chairman of the Commission on Higher Education; Undersecretary Cielito F. Habito, Chairman of the National Economic and Development Authority; and Undersecretary Ma. Luisa "Cielo" Magno, Chairman of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Also expected to grace the forum are Secretary Emmanuel Joel Villanueva, director-general and ethics technical Education and Skills Development Authority; and the Forum's afternoon session. The discussions on this afternoon shall focus on the legislations on outsourcing and/or arising from sub-contracting, the current legislative initiatives affecting service contracts.

Also – especially the called provisions of House Bill No. 302, the global opportunities of outsourcing vis-à-vis Philippine laws; and the WTO Opportunities and Challenges.

PALSCON president Ismael D. Rodriguez specially encourages local service contractors, private recruitment and placement agencies, manpower cooperatives, employment and IT practitioner to participate in this 1st National Forum that is being organized in cooperation with the Department of Labor and Employment-National Capital Region. The information they shall acquire from this forum will undoubtedly enhance exponentially the viability of their companies and keep them away from protracted legal dilemmas.

PAG-IBIG APPROVES P40 M FOR NORTHERN MINDANAO MASS-HOUSING

The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF or Pag-IBIG Fund) recently approved the development financing facility for a 361-unit mass housing project in Pagalpar, Cagayan de Oro City. Johns Builders and Trade, developers of Kolina West Palms, has proposed to develop a 5.3-ha mass-housing project and built 157 single-detached plus 124 single-attached units which will be available to qualified Pag-IBIG members.

Pag-IBIG Fund chief executive officer Lawyer Darlene Marie B. Berberabe (third from left) recently inspected the development of the project. Photo shows Berberabe with developer Justice Talaid (second from left) and Pag-IBIG officers VP Fermin A. Sta. Teresa Jr., SVP Armod Roddy E Mesa, Special Assistant to the CEO Nannette T. Aldiap and Manager Juliano S. Bunghal.

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Ang kanyang mga labi ay kasalukuyang nakalagak sa kanilang tahanan sa 181 San Juan, Hagonoy, Bulacan
Ang paghatid sa huling hantungan ay sa darating na Miyerkules, 16 Marso 2011 ika - 2 ng hapon
sa Himlayan ni San Juan, San Juan, Hagonoy, Bulacan

Hinihiling po na sa halip na bulaklak ang isipin ay maihandog ang inyong mga donasyon sa mga simbahan ng Our Lady of Lourdes Church NO Amoranto St. Quezon City o sa Parokya ng San Juan ng Hagonoy, Bulacan

PURIFICACION CRUZ PLATA

Our beloved and beautiful Mom,
Purification Cruz Plata, *peacefully and gracefully joined our Creator last Friday, March 11, 2011.*

Up to the moment of her death, she showed her love and deep concern for us, her children. She truly was a beautiful mom, inside and out, and her life up to the end was lived with nothing but the welfare of her children in mind. We will forever be indebted to her. We are what we are now because of Mom and Dad.

Mommy, nurturing, mumming salamat. We love you deeply. Enjoy God's heavenly kingdom in the loving embrace of our Lord, Daddy Manuel, our brother Butch and sister Melita.

We will love you always,
Your loving children,

Ernie & Tes (Plata) Que
Nato & Melyn (Plata) Derpo
Ober & Malou (Plata) Abellar

We love you, Lola!

Regine Abellar	Kristine Abellar	Kevin Abellar
Mark Derpo	Paolo Derpo	Joseph Derpo
Rafael Derpo	David Derpo	Shane Plata
Clarisse Plata	Rachelle Que	Ruth Que

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until March 15, 2011.

Interment on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

***Natividad Antonio Sagui Cantimbuhan** was united with the Lord and her husband, **Jose Tagle Cantimbuhan**, **March 09, 2011** at the age of 93.*

*Her children: **Roberto** and **Belen Gonzales**, **Ernani** and **Leonarda Javier** (†), **Regnito** and **Isabelita Bania**, **Susan**, **Gener** and **Helen Santiago**.*

*Her grandchildren: **Rebel**, **Tristan** and **Thea Cantimbuhan**; **Dennis**, **Carol**, **Edwin**, **Karen** and **Gary Javier**; **Risa**, **Rina** and **Jay Cantimbuhan**; **Sonny**, **Jun** and **Gigi Bania**; **Glen**, **Maan**, **Anna**, **Mari** and **Aina Cantimbuhan** request relatives and friends to remember her in prayers.*

The wake is at the family residence,
90 Don P. Campos Ave., Dasmarinas City, Cavite.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 19, 2011 after the 3:30 p.m. mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ANTONIO YANG SR.

a.k.a. Lu Kia, Antonio Badiola

who peacefully went in the Loving Grace of our Lord on February 27, 2011

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed." – Joshua 23:14

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Davao de Sur
Bids and Awards Committee
Malalag, Davao del Sur

OFFICE OF THE BIDDING/AWARDS COMMITTEE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Local Government Unit of Malalag, Davao del Sur, thru the duly constituted Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites all prospective bidders for the following projects:

NAME	APPROVED BUDGET COST
1. Supply & Installation of Air-conditioning System (Philippine Red Cross Building)	Php 1,400,000.00
2. Pandanonwala Road - Phase 1 Sabo Dam (Hollow Blocks)	Php 1,200,000.00
3. Supply & Installation of Transformer & Electric Primary	Php 1,200,000.00
4. LBP-Malalag Compound Perimeter Fencing	Php 1,000,000.00
5. General Development - Concreting of Access Road	Php 800,000.00

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Bidding documents may be purchased by the prospective bidders upon the payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 5,000.00 at the Office of the Municipal Treasurer.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184, unless otherwise provided for. Bid opening shall be on the date and time specified above. Bidders should have completed, within the last five (5) years from the date of submission of the bid, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section 23 thereof.

Bidders should comply with Section 47 of RA 9184 and its IRR.

Bidders shall submit their bids through the BAC or its duly authorized representative. Bids may be submitted on the date of the bid opening. Late bids shall not be accepted.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bidders have the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Bidders must submit their bids through the BAC or its duly authorized representative. Bids may be submitted on the date of the bid opening. Late bids shall not be accepted.

All bidders should present their proof of eligibility as per ITB Clause 12.

Bid opening shall be on the date and time specified above. Bidders or their authorized representatives may attend the bid opening.

The Local Government Unit of Malalag, Davao del Sur reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to:

ATTY. FRANCISCO B. GARCIA
Chairman, BAC

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

(1) Arnel Gaylord H. Montesio
Cebu Office

(2) Celia Fernandez D. Alapre
Iloilo Branch

(3) Abran Jose F. Alpas
Pasig Office

(4) Elmer E. Alburquerque
Pasig Office

Notice is hereby given that the following agents whose policies appear above, are no longer connected with FORTUNE LIFE INSURANCE CO., INC. with their respective effectivities:

ALMAR JOSE F. ALPAS	- 02/01/2011
CINLO REYNALDO C. ALAYON	- 02/01/2011
OLIVER ALBARRACIN	- 12/14/2000
ARNEL EMYLDRO H. MONTESIO	- 04/30/2001

Any transactions entered into by them for and in behalf of the company after such date shall not be binding.

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Date/Time: 03/11/11
Time: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Date: 03/11/11 to 03/25/11
Time: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Website: http://www.depedbookdev.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) hereby invites bidders for various computers, furniture and office equipment and other items enumerated below:

Maintenance Bid : P 83,275.00

Schedule of Activities:

Issuance & Submission of Bidding Documents	March 10, 2011
Deadline for Receipt of Bids by the Bids and Awards Committee	March 17, 10, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Bid Opening	March 17, 10, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Bid Evaluation	March 17, 10, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Notification and Posting of Bids	March 17, 10, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

The Instructions to Bidders can be accessed from the BAC on Financial Secretariat (2) Property Division, Ground Floor, BNBB Building II, Bonifacio Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City.

The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without affecting their validity, waive formality and effectivity and/or defects in the bids received and to make an award to the bidder/bidders whose proposal is most advantageous to the Government.

The Department of Education assumes no obligation whatsoever to announce bid or withhold the reasons for any suspension or loss that may result on the postponement of bid or to make determination of evaluation guarantee that an award will be made.

For inquiry, please call the BAC or Property Secretariat at Telephone number(s) 635-70-17

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO B. GARCIA
Undersecretary for Finance and Administration
Chairman, BAC on Disposal

(PHIL. BIDDING 11-3-2011)

People, Events & Products

Smart cuts unlimited data rates for BlackBerry

BLACKBERRY HANDSET users subscribed to leading wireless service provider Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) can now have unlimited data access for just 999.99 a month.

Formerly priced at P1,299 for 30 days, Smart's BlackBerry unlimited data package provides unlimited browsing, e-mail, instant messaging and social networking access for both postpaid and prepaid subscribers.

Smart subscribers can register to the Unlimited Data Plan for BlackBerry by texting BBUNLIMITED to 2207. The P999 can shall be charged on top of the monthly service fee if subscriber is on Smart Gold (postpaid), for Smart Buddy (prepaid), it will be deducted from the subscriber's load credit (if maintaining balance required). The unlimited data plan is also available on monthly (P300) and daily (P50) rates. These packages can be purchased by texting UB PLUS or UB 50/1 to 2207.

Postpaid subscribers may also opt to subscribe to a recurring monthly plan by registering for the service at any Smart Wireless Center. This eliminates the need to send activation requests every month to renew their subscription.

Aside from the Unlimited Data Plan, Smart subscribers using BlackBerry devices can also choose from six BlackBerry Lite Bundles. Launched October last year, these all-inclusive bundles provides "select-style offers for individuals, packaged according to how they use their devices.

The BlackBerry Lite Social Bundle offers unlimited access to BlackBerry Social Networking applications like BlackBerry and Twitter and instant messaging (IM) platforms like Yahoo! Messenger, Google Talk and the IM service inside BlackBerry handsets, the "BlackBerry Messenger" or BBM. The BlackBerry Lite 3 mail bundle includes unlimited access to e-mail in addition to the unlimited IM services.

The Lite Internet and E-mail Bundles can be purchased for just P699, valid for 30-days. To register, subscriber simply needs to text SOCIAL MEDIA (for the Social Bundle) or EMAIL MOBILE (for the E-mail bundle) to 2207. Weekly (P300) and daily (P50) rates are also available for these packages.

All the monthly packages, including Unlimited Data Plan P999 are available until March 31. The weekly and daily packages are regular offers, for a complete list of keywords and other instructions, subscribers may visit the Smart website at www.smart.com.ph/blackberry.

EPLOT HOLDS LIFE TRANSFORMATION WORKSHOP FOR SALES TEAM

As part of the premier IT company's efforts to provide employees with avenues for self-improvement and development, ePLOT recently held a Life Transformation workshop for members of its sales team. The workshop, facilitated by IT expert and Philippine Science student Melech Chaidez, featured in-depth discussions on such topics as the laws of attraction and visualization, to his talk. Chaidez stressed the importance of understand ing one's self first in order to achieve one's goals. He also guided the group through a thirty minute meditation that provided the participants some time for introspection. Photo shows Chaidez (back row, 4th from right) with the ePLOT sales team led by vice president for sales and marketing Jessica Pascual (back row, 4th from right).

Julie's Bakeshop marks 30th year with greater business outlook

SINCE IT was established in 1981 by Julia and her husband Diego Cantoria, Julie's Bakeshop has been able to systematically employ effective business strategies to build a brand. Currently it is regarded as the country's most successful neighborhood bakeshop chain with over 300 bakeshops all over the country.

On its 30th year and under the leadership of Joseph B. Gonzalez, the president and chief executive officer of Julie's Franchise Corporation, Julie's Bakeshop is set to intensify the various aspects of its operations even more. Confidence said the company is enhancing its business models to support its existing franchisees and entice more entrepreneurs to see how lucrative it is to put up their own Julie's Bakeshop outlet. The company expects to meet its target of opening 30 to 40 new stores on top of its present network of over 300 branches nationwide and grow its sales by 10 percent.

For a retail franchise fee of P250,000 along with the mandatory market study, an interested franchisee could have a Julie's Bakeshop up and running. Every shop is secured of continuous marketing campaign support, from bakery opening to building supreme brand image, from fitness and staff uniform interior and thorough training, seminar workshops and hands-on product knowledge. Franchisee technology program also highlights the Julie's way of achieving product quality services excellence and customer satisfaction. There's also a reward system in place for bakery team performance, a motivational tool to drive all teams nationwide to excel both in sales and in operational efficiency.

Nobleland's new exec spearheads training academy

Chua

NOBLELAND PROPERTIES Inc., developer of first-rising residential tower The Exchange Regency, recently appointed its new executive director for sales and marketing Rachelle Chua to spearhead the company's Noble Training Academy.

Chua, whose diverse practical experience and solid understanding of various business management applications – including teambuilding and modern analysis – has an eye for Noble Training Academy, an elite training ground for the company's roster of real estate sales people.

According to Jesus Irwin, Nobleland Nominee for general manager, the creation of Noble Training Academy is part of the company's aggressive plans to equip its salespeople with the most customer-focused selling techniques. Apart from interesting motivational skills, the training program is geared towards long-term relationship of goal-setting performance as well as the continuous development of fresh sales ideas which are vital to the organization.

Spearheading Noble Training Academy's sales reinvigoration activities include systematic coordinative tactics and effective sales communications coaching which target in gaining bigger client share in both existing and emerging markets. "Key part of the training program's strategic objectives for the company is to create the best sales force to propel our goal to become one of the leading real estate developers in the country," Irwin noted.

For his part, Chua said the Noble Training Academy's purpose is to build a systematic approach to the overall improvement of sales via the competency development of top-caliber sales people in the corporate and retail markets. "We are confident that the company is well on its way to reaching its target goals" she added.

Aside from her current post, Chua also combines professional experience with on personality and development that help equip people to achieve their full potentials.

Chua's dynamic 15-year sales and management stint reflect her pioneering experience and record-breaking performance in the real estate field. Prior to joining Nobleland Properties, Inc. her career highlights include director and managerial positions with Filinvest Development Corp. and Philtown Properties Inc.

Homes for heroes: Globe Run for Home 2011

NON-PROFIT housing organization Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) and Globe Telecom are once again teaming up to build new homes for some of the country's unsung heroes. Recently chosen by Globe Telecom as one of the four beneficiaries of its widely-anticipated March 27 charity run, the Globe Run for Home 2011, HFHP has announced that funds raised from the event will be used to provide decent shelters for Filipino public school teachers.

The marks the third year in a row that Habitat for Humanity will serve as a beneficiary of the Globe Run for Home, which is set to take place this year at the Bonifacio Global City with a variety of running routes at 10km, 5-km, 3.5 km, 2.5 km and 21 km distances. The other beneficiaries are Gawad Kalinga, Tuloy Foundation, and Welfare Foundation.

Teachers who will qualify for this program will be required to invest hours of "sweat equity" since the construction of homes, pay affordable monthly repayments to contribute to Habitat's effort of building homes for others in need and attend seminars on values formation and other community building activities. This way, Habitat for Humanity is able to promote dignity in home ownership and foster positive relationships among members of a community, all while ensuring sustainable value for our project partners like Globe Telecom.

Indeed, at the upcoming Globe Run for Home 2011, running will serve to more than fitness – it is more heroic.

The 1st Gerry's Grill Circle of Friends Fun Run for a Cause

GERRY'S GRILL, will be hosting 10k, 5k and 2k marathon and kiddie's edition "Padyak sa Tabon: The first Gerry's Grill Circle of Friends Fun Run for a Cause" in Subic, Olongapo on March 19. Proceeds of the affair will go to foundations of ABS-CBN and GMA 7. Circle of Friends is a group composed of Gerry's Grill customers which gathers at least once a month to have fun, promote fine dining and networking. Members enjoy special offers and privileges. Padyak sa Tabon is also open to running and biking enthusiasts. At least 2,000 participants are expected to join the kick-off event which will commence at Gerry's Grill in Subic. Registration fee is P700 for runners, and P500 for bikers at the Open Elite and Executive categories. Circle of Friends members can avail of discounts on ticket purchase. Gun starts at 12 p.m. for bikers and 2 p.m. for runners. On-site event registration commences at 10a.m. Tickets are available at Gerry's Grill Metro Manila branches, Gerry's Grill Marquee Mall (Angeles), SM Clark and Subic branches. For inquiries logon to www.gerrysgrill.com or call 205-1111.

Sun reaches out to OFWs with 'Libreng Tawag'

SUN CELLULAR will once again reach out to the public particularly the affected Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their loved ones in Qatar, Bahrain, Yemen, and New Zealand, in coordination with the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), from October to "Libreng Tawag" booths are stationed until March 31, at the Davao Oriental Gerry's Grill Mahayahay which gathers at least once a month to have fun, promoting fine dining and networking. At least 2,000 participants are expected to join the kick-off event which will commence at Gerry's Grill in Subic. Registration fee is P700 for runners, and P500 for bikers at the Open Elite and Executive categories. Circle of Friends members can avail of discounts on ticket purchase. Gun starts at 12 p.m. for bikers and 2 p.m. for runners. On-site event registration commences at 10a.m. Tickets are available at Gerry's Grill Metro Manila branches, Gerry's Grill Marquee Mall (Angeles), SM Clark and Subic branches. For inquiries logon to www.gerrysgrill.com or call 205-1111.

Skechers at Tabbo.ph Nightfest

SPORTSHOE BRAND INC. (SBI) the exclusive distributor of Skechers in the Philippines, is the official footwear partner of the Tabbo.ph Nightfest at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Intramuros on April 16, highlighting its newest line of running shoes – Skechers Resistance Runner (SRR), as part of its Shape-up the Philippines fitness advocacy. The Tabbo.ph Nightfest, co-presented by Skechers aims to raise funds for the projects of Runners On A Mission or ROAM. Skechers will be giving away 50 Resistance Runner (SRR) shoes to the first 500 registrants from Metro Manila and Nationwide. There will also be Skechers booths during the event to highlight the latest in running and the revolutionary line of fitness footwear to help you get more out of your walk, work out, and run. Interested runners by the Nightfest can register at participating bike/run stores: Fastest Bike, Market Market, Mizuma's, Sports Central, and Endurance Manila. For more information on Shape Ups and the Skechers Resistance Runner, visit www.skechers.com.ph or check out www.facebook.com/skechersphilippines.

Value for money membership with Picpa SMMC

THE 2010-2011 Picpa National Board approved a continuation program requiring only the payment of the current year's membership dues to activate your Picpa membership. The program is valid up to March 31. Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) whose place of work or residence is in the Makati, Pasay, Paranaque, Las Pinas, Muntinlupa, Taguig and Ortigas area may now renew their membership with Picpa Southern Metro Manila Chapter (SMMC) without worrying for the past cost unpaid annual membership dues.

Here are the easy ways to register and to activate your membership:

1) Fill up the Picpa information sheet which you can download at www.picpa.com.ph or call the Picpa SMMC Secretariat (Melabella Dan) at tel. nos. 723-0313, 724-4066, 725-3337. Don't forget to write your chapter – Southern Metro Manila Chapter.

2) Submit your latest colored 1x1 ID picture for your Picpa ID.

3) Pay your P1,000 membership dues through any bank of the Philippine Islands branch nearest to the deposit slip for account name Picpa Metro Manila Region account SB Share Bird Savings Account # 3301-1120-16 or payment by pick up, please call Ms Picpa SMMC office.

4) For the validated deposit slip to Michelle Diaz with information on your name, CPR no., address and chapter affiliation (SMMC).

Picpa reaches out further and provides additional value for member-chapters in attendance in the renewal of PRC ID and BOA accreditation at a nominal handling fee of P150 and P300, respectively; free life insurance coverage of P50,000; and an opportunity to participate in all Picpa activities where you can continuously learn and enhance your skills and competencies as well as network with your fellow CPAs.

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its CY 2010 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of **THREE BILLION NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN AND 28/100 PESOS (P3,979,187.28)** being the appropriate Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contracts for the following projects:

SCHEDULE	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT	QTY	UM	Approved Budget for the Contract (PhP)	Bid Documents Price (Non-Refundable Fee) (Php)
I	Procurement of Ribbon, Ink and Toner Cartridges for PSALM Corporation (for CY 2011)	1	Lot	1,551,087.00	1,500.00
II	Procurement of Office Supplies and Materials for PSALM Corporation (for CY 2011)	1	Lot	2,398,100.28	2,500.00

Bidders shall have the option of submitting a proposal on any or all projects. Bid Proposals shall be submitted on each project. Evaluation and award of contract will be undertaken on such project basis. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

2. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites bids for the items listed above. Bid Keys of the Bids is required to participate in the **Bid/Bids Open** of the Bidding Documents. Bidders should have minimum experience within three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 5:00PM, Monday to Friday.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders beginning on **14 March 2011** from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents as indicated above. The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Bid Documents may also be downloaded from the websites of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and PSALM Corporation. Bids submitted by the prospective bidders using Bid Documents from the websites will be accepted provided that payments shall have paid the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents before the submission of their bids.

6. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **21 March 2011 at 4:00 PM** in the 4th Floor, Bamboo Building, GTIS Ayala Avenue, Makati City, which shall be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **04 April 2011, 1:30 PM**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

8. Bid opening shall be on **04 April 2011 at 1:30 PM** at the 4th Floor, Bamboo Building, GTIS, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

9. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to:

ATTY. CONRAD S. TOLENTINO
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
8th Floor, Bamboo Building, GTIS, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. (02) 8924-5678 Fax. (02) 8924-5679
e-mail: conrad.tolentino@psalm.gov.ph
Visit our website: www.psalm.gov.ph

CONRAD S. TOLENTINO
BAC Chairperson

2nd March 13, 2011

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(2 March 2011)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REI)

The Department of Health, through its Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC), invites Consulting Firms to Apply for Eligibility and Shortlisting for the Indicative projects located in the Government of the Philippines (GOP):

Name of Project	Brief Description of the Project	Date	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) (in PhP, Peso)
1. Procurement of Consulting Services for the Development of Health Policy Review (BAC-CO-EOP-011-10)	To aid policy and decision-making in DOH for the health sector, and to provide evidence-based knowledge and information to policy and decision-making in DOH by utilizing the best available research, development and technology to support the implementation and evaluation of DOH's issues in a sustainable, timely and cost-effective manner with maximum benefit to clients in DOH.	Now	2,000,000.00
2. Procurement of Consulting Services for the Enhancement or the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) Benefit Package to Support the Universal Health Care Agenda of President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III (Phase I) (BAC-CO-EOP-011-10)	To enhance the content of treatment policy lines in the Department of Health through update and better use and application of health technology and knowledge in the treatment lines in Health Insurance Act System.	Now	5,000,000.00
3. Procurement of Consulting Services for the Development of the Department of Health Annual Reporting (DRR and DFO) (BAC-CO-EOP-011-10)	Project is a complex mission the accomplishments of DOH-Offices Central Office, Centers for Health Development and Hospitals/Medical Centers. Consolidation of the Annual Reports (Annual Accomplishment Report, Annual Report, Financial Report and Annual Report) will be done by the Consultant. Final Report will be submitted to the Secretary of Health. Final Report will be submitted to the Secretary of Health. Final Report will be submitted to the Secretary of Health.	Now	700,000.00
4. Procurement of Consulting Services for the Conduct of Health Systems Analysis and Review (BAC-CO-EOP-011-10)	Provide data collection and guidance in data mapping, analysis and interpretation of data collected from DOH and also provide capacity in integrated framework and approach. Strengthen the implementation of Health Systems Analysis and Review (HSAR) and provide technical assistance to DOH-CHDs in the development of protocols, guidelines, care and management of HSAR activities and provide technical support in the conduct of HSAR.	Now	2,000,000.00
5. Procurement of Consulting Services for the Development of Health Facilities Planning and Management Information System (BAC-CO-EOP-011-10)	Review and the findings in outside of the HSMIS building. Provide the system for DOH certification. Provide the system for DOH certification.	Now	2,000,000.00
6. Procurement of Consulting Services for the Budget Preparation of the DOH-Central Office (BAC-CO-EOP-011-10)	Improve the current features and functions of the DOHBP to make the system more flexible and responsive to the needs of the DOH users.	Immediate	1,500,000.00
7. Procurement of Consulting Services for Public Information and Communication Campaign Information and Communication (BAC-CO-EOP-011-10)	Provide DOH-CHDs with technical and expert knowledge, assistance and support in the implementation of the Health Promotion and Communication Campaign. Provide technical assistance to the DOH-CHDs in developing and implementing their respective Health Promotion and Communication Campaign.	Now	2,000,000.00
8. Procurement of Consulting Services for the Establishment of Health Facilities Management Information System (BAC-CO-EOP-011-10)	Provide the DOH-CHDs with technical and expert knowledge, assistance and support in the implementation of the Health Facilities Management Information System. Provide technical assistance to the DOH-CHDs in developing and implementing their respective Health Facilities Management Information System.	Now	2,000,000.00

1. The DOH now calls for the submission of eligibility documents. Interested firms and Individual Consultants must submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply for eligibility and shortlisting for the above consulting projects on or before **24 March 2011** at 10 of Building A, COBAC Conference Room, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Interested firms must indicate in their LOI which project they are applying for. Only the eligible consultants will be invited to submit their technical and financial proposals.
2. The DOH-CHDs now invites pre-qualified, shortlisted consultants to submit their technical and financial proposals.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the IRR of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines, or to countries with mutual GPA or R.A. 5183, and also have demonstrated capabilities and experience. The bidder will be evaluated on an over-all highest ranked and highest rated responsive bid based on both quality and cost qualifications.
4. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Eligibility Documents.
5. Interested consultants may be allowed to visit the Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE). Bids whose technical proposals pass the minimum technical rating of 70% shall have its financial proposals opened and evaluated.
6. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Department of Health at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
7. Consulting firms must submit their LOI and proposals to the address below. Letter of Intent may be sent via e-mail at cobac.dohbac@yahoo.com.ph. Terms of References may be downloaded from the PhilGEPS website (**www.philgeps.gov.ph**) or through the website of DBM (ID 18 or 19).

For further information, please refer to:

CHIEF SECRETARIAT
Department of Health
Room 1, 1st Building, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. No. 651-7800 loc. 2020 / 2021 Telefax No. 743-8301
e-mail address: **cobac.dohbac@yahoo.com.ph**
cobacsecretariat@gmail.com

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and/or reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the DOH.

Approved by:

(sgd.) **MINERVA T. GAHO, MD, MPH, CESO III**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, COBAC

(PB) March 13, 2011

MAKATI (SPORTS) CLUB, INC.

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Makati (Sports) Club, Inc. has approved the sale by auction of the shares of the following individuals/ corporate stockholders:

	STOCKHOLDER	ADDRESS	SC NO.
1.	B. Wilfredo S. Su (3987)	32 Salt Street, New Manila, Quezon City Metro Manila	A-303
2.	Rodolfo V. Cruz (5284)	21 Milkyway Drive, Bluebird Subdivision, Quezon City	A-314
3.	Michael Anthony A. Poblenzano (1340)	44 de La Asa St., Pacific Malayan Village, Cupang, Muntinlupa City, Manila	A-2110
4.	Platinum Plans Phils., Inc. (P.32)	13/F The World Center Condo., 330 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	A-2127
5.	Stella C. Gonzalez (0943)	Unit 9B Twin Towers, 6737 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	A-2203
6.	Daniel F. Peralta (0791)	1701 Tanay St., Pinoy Vill., Makati City	A-2141
7.	Carlo A. Lorenzo (3844)	26 Taurus St. Bel-Air III, 3, Makati	A-2158
8.	Bella Lauzon Coop (1191)	Phil. Power Automation Phils., 19 Bagong Caliraya, Ugong, Pasig City	B-211
9.	Sta. Rosa Food Services Corporation (1280)	2/F Campana Bldg., 50 Polaris Street, Bel-air Village, Makati City	B-217
10.	Candido A. Polancolano (1567)	840 Prince Street, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City	B-1088

The auction sale will be held on 15 April 2011 at 10:00 A.M. at the Club's Board Room.

This announcement also serves as a notice sent delivered to the members/ stockholders concerned that the auction of said shares may be avoided if they pay the overdue account/s at anytime during office hours before the auction sale.

BERNARDO C. VIRTUDO, Jr.
Corporate Secretary

(PB) March 13, 2011

We are a leading company in our industry and we continue to grow. We are looking for

- **Secretary** (female, fluent in English)
- **Telemarketers / Sales & Marketing Officers**
- **Upholsterer / Modista**
- **Customer Service Providers**

You can earn a lot without working graveyard shift or compromising your social life. It is time to spread your wings! Fresh graduates are welcome.

Please email your resume with picture to thehrmanager.pmai@gmail.com

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Read
JOB Market

FREE Processing Fee
FREE Personal Assessment
by Australian Principal
No Cash Out / 100% Financing Available / Earn P1.5 million per year
(For RNs with at least 1 year work experience)
March 16 & 17 2011 (2 pm)
Philippine Stock Exchange Building
Auditorium (Back of SM Megamall)
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
BY RESERVATION ONLY!
Philman Inc. (02) 687.6505 / (0949) 490.6405

WANTED BUYERS...

WHILE OTHERS ARE STILL THINKING, YOU ARE BUYING!!!

Daewoo E&C Co., Ltd., a Korean Construction Firm engaged in the prosecution of a government project in Pangasinan is selling heavy equipment/office equipment for the highest bidders:

1. Excavators
2. Bulldozers (Caterpillars)
3. Dump Trucks
4. Water Trucks
5. Cargo Trucks
6. Compactors
7. Motor Graders
8. Trailers
9. Water Pumps (6"s & 4")
10. Welding Machines
11. Generator sets (300KVA, 90KVA, 12OKVA, 17KVA)
12. Wheel Loaders
13. Containers Vans ideal for field offices
14. Laboratory equipment
15. Survey instruments (total stations/auto level)
16. Used office equipment & furnitures...

...and many more!!!

Interested buyers are welcome to inspect these equipment at our field office located at Daewoo Compound San Vicente Alcala, Pangasinan or call Tel. No. (075) 593-2947 / Mobile No. 0915-8078506 and ask the Administration Manager for the details.

Sunpro Enterprises International Inc. (Philippine Branch)
Global Gateway Logistics City Building, Spar Road 2, Industrial Estate-5, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines 2023
Telephone: 63-45-499-1100
Facsimile: 63-45-499-1104

Invitation to Bid for the Supply of 60 units 40 Standard 8"x 8"x 40" Class B Shipping Container

This invitation is open to all Suppliers who can supply and meet the standard requirements and the availability of said item, and include the full package of cost of Freight.

Bidders must submit the RFQ / Request for Formal Quotation, via email to the following incharge:

- Qirlo P. Evangelista – Procurement Supervisor, email address: pevangelista@pereglrands.com
- Raquel Bandila – Procurement Officer, email address: rbandila@pereglrands.com

Pre-Bid Date:
Date: March 10, 2011
Location: Global Gateway Logistic City Spar Road 2, Industrial Estate-5, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines 2023

Bid Due Date:
RFQ, Request Formal Quotation must be received via email or delivered sealed to our office on March 15, 2011 (Sunday). Bids submitted after this may be rejected.

Terms of Payment:
- Suppliers may issue sales invoice for all delivery and accepted by the Warehouse/ Project site.
- Philippine will pay COD- Cash on Delivery upon received the said item from the official receipt/ invoices and all supporting documents.

Requirement on Site:
- Provide delivery schedule for all units
- How many units per day can be delivered.

Note: Selection of Supplier shall be based on best value/ lowest cost and the availability of stock. Formal Purchase Order shall be awarded upon review of the proposal as soon as possible.

UNIVERSITY OF RIZAL SYSTEM (URS)
Tanay, Rizal

NOTICE OF SEARCH FOR PRESIDENCY

The Board of Regents of the University of Rizal System (URS), Tanay, Rizal, formally and publicly announces that the Search for the next President of URS is now open.

Minimum Qualifications:

Applicants for URS Presidency must possess the following minimum qualifications:

1. Not less than forty-five (45) years old and not more than sixty-one (61) on the time of the deadline of the application;
2. A natural born Filipino citizen;
3. Holder of an earned doctorate degree from a reputable higher education institution;
4. Proven track record as an administrator, preferably in the academe (minimum of five (5) years in a managerial or supervisory position in any college or university or in at least two (2) years the position of Department Head, Program Head, Principal) are excluded from the purview of the search;
5. Must have not been convicted of any administrative offense or of any crime involving moral turpitude or more than six (6) months;
6. Accredited presidents of other state universities and colleges whose work is yet to receive either the next succeeding five-year (5-year) evaluation of the notice of award to the appointment to, the Board shall be allowed to file submit his/her application for this search process/position.

An applicant who does not meet any one of the aforementioned minimum qualifications and cannot submit all documentary requirements and pertinent supporting documents/ information within the period for submission of applications shall be disqualified from the search process.

Documentary Requirements:

Interested applicants must submit one (1) set of original and six (6) certified photocopies of the following documents:

1. Formal application letter addressed to the Chairperson of the CHED;
2. Detailed curriculum vitae signed under oath;
3. Certified true copy of documents in support of the data stated in the Curriculum Vitae;
4. Personal vision, mission and development goals of URS;
5. Certification/clearance from the following government agencies obtained not more than one (1) month from the date of filing of application, indicating applicant has no pending administrative and/or criminal case:
   - Sandiganbayan
   - Civil Service Commission
   - National Bureau of Investigation
   - Office of the Ombudsman/ Field Court
   - Police Clearance (for government employees)
   - Authorized company where applicant is presently employed
6. NSO authenticated birth certificate;
7. Medical certificate with physical fitness, including a Drug Test Clearance, and a Neuro-Psychiatric Clearance issued by physicians who are not from the same institution where the applicant is presently employed;
8. Duly accomplished CHED Personal Data Sheet (PDS) (www.ched.gov.ph);

Interested applicants may submit their application letters and documents through:

Dr. Ma. Luisa Q. Quimbo, Chairperson
URS Search Committee for the Presidency
Office of the President, Carlos Hilado Memorial State University
Talisay City, Negros Occidental

Dr. Pedrito R. Lucasan, Chairperson
Commission on Higher Education
4/F HEDC Building, UP Diliman, Quezon City

All application documents submitted after 5:00 p.m. of June 6, 2011 will no longer be considered. Applicants will be informed in writing whether their quality of submitted documents is satisfactory.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **Fatima Ballesteros** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with DMCI Homes.

Any transactions made or entered by her will no longer be honored by DMCI Homes.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **Marilou L. Macahia** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with DMCI Homes.

Any transactions made or entered by her will no longer be honored by DMCI Homes.

SR. MITZ, FI WITH JJUHS-RIZAL BATCH 73
Shown (seated at the center) are Sr. Mitz, fi (Marianito Ronaco) together with Ateneo Road Batch 73 of Judge Juan Luna High School during a get-together lunch on Feb. 26 at JJUHS building, Sr. Mitz, fi was in the Philippines for a month vacation (Jan. 3-Mar. 4). A thanksgiving mass was also given last Feb. 13 at Maranao Retreat House, Ateneo Extension Sr., Quezon City on the occasion of the 25th anniversary for being a sister. She went back to Japan on March 4 to continue her mission and devotion.

PMAP-HEALTHWAY RENEW PARTNERSHIP FOR 2011
Healthway has been a dedicated sponsor and active supporter of the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) for the past five years. This year, PMAP and Healthway will begin another strategic partnership in advocating and pursuing proactive responses to health issues in the workplace. A memorandum of agreement was signed by Healthway president Dr. Eleanor Bergio-Tan and PMAP President Rong Asuncion. Witnessing the event were (from left) Healthway senior sales manager Marven Arellano and VP for sales and marketing Carmie Dy-Liacco. PMAP treasurer Tony Dela Rosa and PMAP chair for ways and means Lina Ramona.

ATLAS COPCO NAMES BEST PERFORMERS FOR ITS ANNUAL AWARDS
Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc., the local office of Stockholm, Sweden-based Atlas Copco, has recently the awardees and nominees for the company's Salesman of the Year and Service Engineer of the Year for 2010 in simple ceremonies held at the company's offices in Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna. These top performers are recognized for their outstanding performance and significant contributions to the growth of the company. Salesman of the Year finalists were evaluated based on 5 major categories: achievement of sales targets; peer evaluation; technical sales results; performance in the Atlas Copco "Sales Technologies" and customers' feedback; while Service Engineer of the Year nominees were judged based on machine recovery, technical capability, response time and customers' evaluation. Shown from left are: (standing) John Salcedo, Mark Gregoria, Dominador Calayan, Leo Badlis, Nathan Hallarsen, Mark Higgenbotta, Raymond Buenaventura, Magtal Cabuyao, and Willy de Togna. Seated are: Ray dela Cuesta, Alan Lagrapi (Service Engineer winner for 2010), Tarlito Acosta and George Lapat II (Winners of Salesman of the Year 2010), and Mark Jose. Atlas Copco provides products ranging from compressed air and gas equipment, generators, construction and mining, industrial tools and assembly systems, and sold and rented under different brands, and a global sales and service network found in more than 170 countries.

ATTENTION: CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISERS
For STOCKHOLDER'S MEETINGS, INVITATION TO BID, DEPARTMENT ORDERS, and BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, advertise in the Inquirer National Classifieds.
INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

The 42nd CCP Summer Dance Workshop starts on April 4

THE CCP'S 42nd summer training and multicompetitive workshop for dancers will begin on April 4, 2011. The 42nd CCP Summer Dance Workshop will be held in two (2) locations: at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Building along Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, which on April 5, Tuesday, will go into celebrity mode, thanks to Cardinal Tito, Tagog Cruz and company. Remember?

Classes include Ballet Basic, Pre-Beginners, Children's Ballet, Intermediate and Advanced Ballet, Hip-Hop for kids and teens, Contemporary for Children, Intermediary, Intermediary and Intermediate, Classical Jazz, Intermediate and Advanced Jazz, Tap 1, Tap 2, Individual Points.

The Summer Dance Workshop is open to dancers of all ages, from pre-school to senior citizens. Interested participants may register at the CCP Dance School. It has been a tradition among dance students to turn 40 years, and this time is there! So begin to exercise and be positive about studying. If you want to take that planning to the next level.

The Workshop also caters to a number of non-dance requirements, enabling its students to have dance experience through instruction and first-hand encounters with professional dancers and choreographers and also other teachers and students are also encouraged to join.

Scholarships are available for children of Manila and Provincial students. Applications are due on March 12 at 1 Executive Station Manila, and April 4 at 8 am for Provincial applicants. All additional and classes for auditions will be held at the CCP.

The Workshop culminates in a recital at the CCP Main Theater on May 21 and 22.

For more information or to find out about other CCP activities contact the CCP Dance School at 551-3827/3883 from 11 am to 1 pm or Tuesdays to Saturdays, or email info@ccp.gov.ph.

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE / LEASE

The HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION (HGC) is offering for outright sale in cash or installment, or straight lease the following properties located at the **8F Condominium, Mabolo, Cebu** through public bidding:

Unit	Location	Floor Area (sqm)	Selling Price
Unit 1A-8F	Ground Floor	104.00	₱1,560,000.00
Unit 2A-8F / w Power Tap	2nd Floor	104.00	₱1,560,000.00
Unit 3A-8F / w Power Tap	3rd Floor	104.00	₱1,560,000.00
Basement		1,664.00	₱1,560,000.00

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. For sale / lease of the properties shall be on "**AS IS, WHERE IS**" basis.
2. All Bidders are required to check the titles for liens and encumbrances and the condition and status of the properties before submitting their offer.
3. All proposals shall be submitted on or before 3:00 PM, March 21, 2011.
4. All bidders may offer to lease or purchase the property in cash or installment. Only cash sales shall be entitled to discounts.
5. Terms of payment:

4.1. CASH SALE

Payment Period	Discount Rate
Spot / 30 days	10%
31 days	10%
45 days	9%
60 days	8%

4.2. INSTALLMENT SALE

10% minimum downpayment.
Balance payable in equal monthly installments over a maximum of thirty (30) years.
Prevailing interest rate is 12% per annum.

4.3. STRAIGHT LEASE

Minimum Lease Term	3 years
Minimum Lease Rate	₱ 200.00 / sqm (Ground Floor) ₱ 250.00 / sqm (Basement and 1st Floor)
Minimum Annual Escalation Rate	5%

4.4. RENT TO OWN

HGC's acquired assets may be leased to qualified applicants who shall enter into a Contract of Lease with Option to Purchase (COLOP) subject to the following:

4.4.1. The COLOP shall be for a maximum period of five (5) years. However, the AVERAGE rate per square meter for the lease or any term within the period of the contract and exercise his/her option to purchase the property is used as the a buying loan from any financial institution.

4.4.2. The purchase price and monthly rental fee for the property shall be determined and set by HGC before execution of the COLOP. Monthly rental fee is subject to an annual escalation rate of 10%.

4.4.3. Rentals are due on the 1st to 5th day of each and 1 month deposit required.

4.4.4. Payments made over the duration of the Lease during the term of the lease shall be applied as downpayment for the purchase of property as follows:

Year	% Payments Applied to Selling Price
1	10%
2	20%
3	30%
4	40%
5	50%

4.4.5. In case the payment posted from the monthly rental is below the required downpayment, the difference shall be paid by the LESSEE in cash.

6. Bidders are required to pay a bid security of ₱75,000.00 before submitting his/her offer.
7. The award bids should be designed to the designated drop box located at the Marketing and Sales Department located at the 8F Penn Jardeleza, 120 Sir Priest Avenue, Mabolo.
8. Opening of Bids shall be at March 21, 2011, 3pm.
9. The award of sale / lease covering the properties shall be based on the offer determined to be the most advantageous to the Corporation.

For inquiries, please call our Marketing and Sales Department at 888-0000 or 887-2100 or visit our Office at Jade Building, 330 Sir Priest Avenue, Mabolo City.

(sgd.)
RAFAEL F. DELOS SANTOS
Vice President
Asset Management and Disposition Group

BFSB inks CBA for 2010-2013

THE BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK (BFSB), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), and its employee association BPI Family Savings Bank Employees Union formally inked its Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) on Feb. 21, 2011 at the BPI's head office in Ayala Ave. City. The agreement covers the first three years of the five-year CBA starting 2013.

In what is considered as one of the fastest bargaining negotiations in BFSB's history, both panels were able to finish the negotiation, which started after the CBA's expiration last 2010 three days after the union's election,

Our Law Firm is in urgent need of a

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Recently admitted to the Bar, highly motivated, with superior interpersonal skills and excellent advocacy skills, both oral and written.

Interested applicants may send their resumes and transcript of records to:

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Unit 3306 Uptown Place
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Ortigas Center, 1605 Pasig City
Inquiries: 6328564 loc 1401

WANTED

An Ortigas-based company in need of

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

- Only those based in the Rizal area and 5 km. the Ortigas office
- Female, 21- 26 years old
- College graduate or undergrad (min. 2nd yr)
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- Honest and diligent
- Computer literate

Excellent Salary for Qualified Candidates

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MARKETING ASSISTANTS
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GENERAL CLERKS

- Preferably graduate
- Experience in Furniture industry will be an advantage
- Fresh graduates are welcome

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WOOD CLASS DESIGN CENTER
#38 CYCON HOME DEPOT CAINGIN ROAD
Ortigas Center, Ortigas Ave. ext. Greenhills, Pasig City
Email: woodclassdesign@yahoo.com

Irvine Construction Corporation
is in need of
LICENSED MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
Apply at 437-D A. Jose St., Brgy. Balong-Bato, San Juan
Tel. Nos. 723-4623 to 25, 28 to 39

(2) Accounting Staff, (2) Secretarial Staff
(1) Secretary Assistant
(1) Technical Specialist

Newest BPO firm in town

TECHNOLOGY OUTSOURCING PARTNERS (TOP), the newest business process outsourcing company in town, is going full blast in filling-up its manpower requirements, taking-note account the large manpower outlay it will invest to meet as demanded by the company's roster of local and multinational clients.

Seeking to get software engineers, solutions architects and even networking experts, TOP said that those aspirants will form the nucleus of its highly-knowledgeable and competent technical teams and individuals that will provide support for TOP's wide roll of clients.

TOP serves as the knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) arm of the Entertainment Gateway Group (EGG), a leader in mobile solutions and other Value-Added Service (VAS)-based platforms provider in the country's local, to the wholly-owned subsidiary of leading telecommunications provider Globe Telecom, which acquired EGG in 2008 in order to enhance its content and applications portfolio.

TOP's services include consulting, staff augmentation, Application Outsourcing and Development, among others. It is also the "go-to" company when it comes to Java, .Net-based and open-source platforms to applications that will cater to a wide variety of industries such as telecommunications, health-care, information technology and also the manufacturing industry.

With its main offices located in Legaspi Village in Makati City, TOP was created to cater to a wide variety of clients, locally and internationally, with regards to creating value-for-money applications. Presently, its objective includes creating that perfect technology by means of it's competent and highly-skilled professional staff.

"When we first toured TOP to the market, our goal was very modest. Thinking that it is still too early to tell how successful we will become, given our objectives. However, in a short span of time, our clients' demands increased, hence the decision to get more people if we are to maintain our level of service. On the positive side, though, it just shows that our clients are happy with us," explains Glenn Encinilla, General Manager of EGG.

To learn more about how to be part of TOP's growing technical team of offshore services outsourcing experts, visit http://www.egg.ph/careers.php or http://www.egg.ph/careers. Or for extensive information on TOP's range of services, visit http://www.top-outsourcing.ph.

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www.jobmarketonline.com

Multimedia Exponents, Inc.
a below-the-line communications company

is immediately in need of:

10 Account Executives

- Female only, 21-26 years old
- Must have finished a four-year degree preferably in Marketing, Business Management, Advertising, Mass Communications and other communications-related disciplines
- Career-driven and highly independent/highly organized
- With excellent written/oral communication skills
- With or without experience in account management from a marketing communication firm or agency

3 Liaisons Associates

- Female only, 21-26 years old
- With a four-year degree in Management, Communications, Advertising and other related courses
- With strong leadership skills
- With excellent written/oral comm skills
- With experience in marketing-related lineages and talent deliverables

3 Recruitment Associates

- Female only, 21-26 years old
- With a four-year degree in Psychology, Human Resource, and other related courses
- With strong leadership skills
- With strong people management skills
- Competent in fast-paced/high-volume marketing related manpower recruitment

All Interested Applicants
can call/text at 480-3984/09276835930
or send resumes at mmi_mktg@yahoo.com
or at buena.mmi@yahoo.com
or apply personally at **1656 Edsa Magallanes, Makati City**
or can submit their resumes at
MME Corporate Center, 504 Madison Building, Pasay Road, Makati City

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- College graduate or undergraduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering
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- Proficient in PHP, Java, MySQL, C/C++, HTML
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- Ability to execute instructions with room for personal style and initiatives
- Ability to follow timelines
- Independent and with great attention to details
- Able to communicate effectively
- Must be a team player
- Can work with minimum supervision

Send your application letter and comprehensive resume to:

HR Department
Megamobile, Inc.
E-mail: **wehire@inquirer.net**

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Celebrating Pinoy festivals under one roof

By Sasha Lim Uy

No need to travel far—get a taste of some island merry-making at Shopwise

MASSKARA (Bacolod) in Shopwise Alabang

PANAGBENGA (Baguio) in Shopwise Makati

PAHIYAS (Quezon) in Shopwise Libis

Grab some 'pasalubong' without leaving home

From strawberry jam to dried durian, get a taste of the country through its regional specialties

By Fran Katigbak

SHOPWISE
SHOP THE ISLANDS
DISCOVER

the Islands.
where every mile is a natural wonder and every step is a new adventure!
Discover them all at
SHOPWISE

Celebrating Pinoy festivals...

ATI-ATIHAN (Kalibo) in Shopwise Araneta

ANG TIFULD (Antipolo) in Shopwise Antipolo

SINULOG (Cebu) in Shopwise Commonwealth

SUHIFAGUITA (San Pedro) in Shopwise San Pedro

Grab some 'pasalubong' witho

MORIONES (Marinduque)
in Shopwise Sucat

Moriones is both a cultural and religious event. It plays on the words *moro-moro* (mock) and *mori* as an ornamental protective). Moriones is celebrated during Holy Week, and features dancers known for wear soldiers at the time of Jesus. Wearing masks and vibrant costumes of exotic Roman armor, the soldiers seek out the remorse of Longinus, the centurion who stabbed Jesus.

MADAYAWAN (Davao)
in Shopwise Manila

During the celebration of gratitude for a bountiful harvest, Davao City transforms become a colorful scene of costumed dancers and flower- and fruit-filled floats every August. A unique, a bloody greeting that also means "welcome." See become a special of your friend honeydrops and celebrations. And, on top of the standard street-dancing and floats, Davao also holds torchlight and boat races.

Namnam: For a snack, dessert, or breakfast, served Davao durian make for a delicious treat.

ut leaving home

Cavite, which makes a great ride for sure, are sweet and lovely road trips.

The Shopwise EAT IT! initiative will hopefully encourage everyone to sweet and explore the Philippines, said Ye.

Souvenirs and giveaways are only small, olde or weekends, and our chocolate deposits on the Shopwise branch visited.

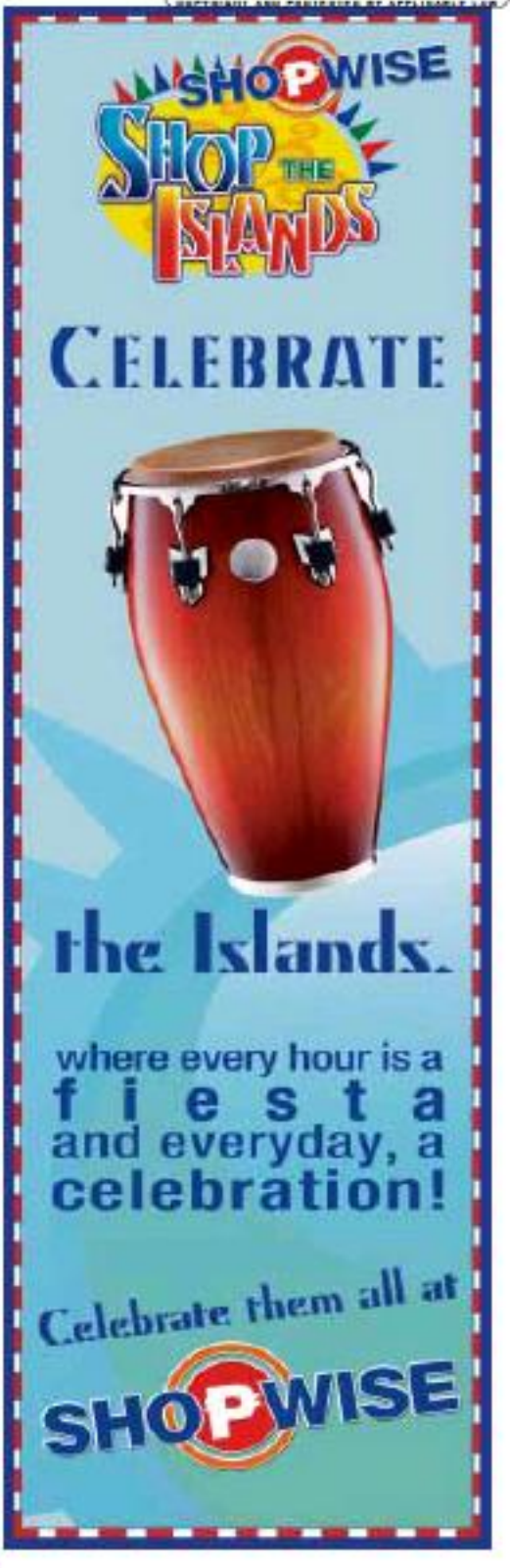
Paint 'n Shoot General Mechanics

Hot Shots (photo booth) and Festival of Colors (face-painting)

- Customers to purchase P800 worth of any item in a single receipt are entitled to free face-painting session and or exited to the photo booth session.
- Promotion made from start of promo, March 13, until the day of the actual Paint 'n Shoot activity held at any Shopwise store.
- Note that Paint 'n Shoot activities are opened now. Customers from start to end of promo.
- Customers are encouraged to have their painted face have their photo souvenir taken in the photo booth.

Ultimate Road Trip

- Every P800 plus P100 worth of participating sponsor products entitle the customer to a raffle coupon to win to the Ka Canna grand prize.
- Raffle draw is on May 8.



Schedule of Activities

Event	Mall-Store Fiesta	Field 'n Street
Shopwise - Mabolo	Saturday, April 30	Sunday, May 1
Shopwise - Makati		Saturday, March 26
Shopwise - Lipa		Saturday, April 9
Shopwise - Araneta	Saturday, April 9	Sunday, April 10
Shopwise - Ayala		Saturday, April 16
Shopwise - Manila	Sunday, April 3	Saturday, April 2
Shopwise - Sucat	Saturday, April 16	Sunday, April 17
Shopwise - Commonwealth	Saturday, April 2	Tuesday, April 5
Shopwise - San Pedro	Saturday, March 26	Sunday, March 27

SHOPWISE

SHOP THE ISLANDS

March 15 to May 1, 2011

This summer, celebrate Island flavors and fiestas and WIN the road trip of a lifetime!

WIN! The ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP!

Your chance to win
A Brand New KIA Carens

Only from the Philippines' Ultimate Value Shopping Destination!

In cooperation with: dti KIA OTOP

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See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1830, Series of 2011

For more information visit us at: www.shopwise.com.ph www.facebook.com/shopwiseexperiences www.twitter.com/shopwisedeals